

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, May 22, 2014

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KO Joe is a guest of honour at club

See Page 39



## Woman is killed as four cars crash

A WOMAN died and five other people were injured in a four car collision in Cradley Heath.

The major incident happened on Waterfall Lane just before noon yesterday.

A woman in her 80s, a passenger in one of the cars, died at the scene and an elderly man was taken to Birmingham Queen Elizabeth Hospital with serious injuries.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said six people were involved in the crash. Of the five injured, three were walking wounded. Three were taken to Russells Hall Hospital and one to Sandwell Hospital.

West Midlands Ambulance Service was called at 11.50am and responded with four land ambulances and two air ambulances.

On the scene were a responder paramedic, an area support officer, senior paramedic officer, the Midlands Air Ambulance from Cosford with trauma doctor on board and a second air ambulance from Strensham.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman said: "The passenger of one car, an elderly woman, was in cardiac arrest. Ambulance staff carried out CPR on the woman but sadly, despite best efforts, nothing could be done to save her."

## Terror book trial date set

A MAN from Dudley has pleaded not guilty to two counts of distributing a terrorist book.

Usman Choudhary, aged 33, of Terry Street, is accused of supplying a book allegedly intended to directly or indirectly encourage or induce the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

Unemployed Choudhary pleaded not guilty on Monday and remains in custody until trial at Kingston Crown Court on July 7.

# CORONER'S CALL ON LORRY SAFETY

## FBI led swoops in the Black Country

THREE people have been arrested in the Midlands, including one in Halesowen, as part of an international cybercrime operation coordinated by the FBI.

The men, aged 19, 20 and 23, were arrested from homes in Halesowen, Erdington and Newcastle-under-Lyme on suspicion of the unlawful use of a Remote Access Tool called 'Blackshades'. A fourth address was raided in Wolverhampton.

The operation targeted software which can remotely control computers and webcams. The 'malware' is said to have infected more than 500,000 computers since 2010.

People are typically infected by clicking on external links on social networking and communication platforms. The victim unwittingly installs the malware. In many cases, those affected will have no idea their device has been infected.

Investigators believe that around 200,000 usernames and passwords of victims across the world may have been extracted by Blackshades users in the UK.

The three men arrested from the Midlands have now been released on police bail.

It is understood that 15 arrests took place in England and two in Scotland.

## Scarlet fever cases increase

MORE than 440 cases of scarlet fever were reported across the Black Country and Staffordshire in eight months, a 500 per cent rise.

There were 370 more children reported with the illness between last September and May this year compared to the same period a year earlier when it was 74.

In Dudley there were 79 compared to 13 last year. Sandwell had 46 with nine the previous year. But the rate of cases being reported nationally is slowing down.

## Messy hands make tidy sum for charity



Liam Miller (centre), Omari Lathe (left) and Faith Brown with Humpty Dumpty Day Nursery's Claire Brinton

A NURSERY in Rowley Regis had fundraising at their fingertips when they painted with their hand prints to raise pounds for a cancer charity.

Children at Humpty Dumpty Day Nursery got their hands messy when they took part in a hand painting project to raise money for Cancer Research.

### Prints

Staff at the child care centre on Marlow Street organised for the children to use paints to colour in a huge picture of Humpty Dumpty.

No paintbrushes were allowed and

the children got stuck in using their hand prints to bring the nursery character to life.

The event has raised more than £300 for charity Cancer Research and donations are still coming in.

The hand painting project was organised by staff over a number of weeks so that all 49 children who attended the nursery could take part.

Claire Brinton at the nursery said: "All the children got involved and really enjoyed getting messy."

"Each child has fundraised themselves and each child was given a sponsorship form.

The picture is that big we struggled to find space on the floor while we completed it but it was great fun to do.

### Display

"Children used their handprints to colour the whole picture of Humpty sitting on his wall and we are going to display it proudly at the top of our staircase so all the parents can see it."

The nursery for children aged six weeks to preschool is open from Monday to Friday.

For more information about the nursery call 0121 561 3902.

Report by Alex Ross

A CORONER is calling on the Department of Transport to look again at regulations over mirrors on older lorries after a war veteran was knocked down and killed by a skip lorry.

The inquest heard that as the driver pulled away after traffic lights he was unable to see the 90-year-old under his front windscreens.

The lorry driven by Geoffrey Hawkins ran over Royal British Legion fundraiser Arnold Soulsby at the crossroad junction of Bank Street and Dudley Road in Brierley Hill.

### Fitted

An inquest at Dudley Coroners' Court was told the lorry had no forward-facing mirrors, which created a blind spot in front of the vehicle.

Under recent regulations brought in by the Department for Transport (DfT), all heavy goods vehicles made since 2007 must have the mirrors fitted.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain, who concluded Mr Arnold died from multiple injuries, said he was to write to the DfT.

He revealed that he had dealt with six similar cases in the past seven years.

Mr Soulsby's daughter, Susan Rowley, told the hearing said she was 'alarmed' the regulation did not apply to all heavy goods vehicles.

Mr Balmain said: "For whatever reason it wasn't felt necessary to make the regulation retrospective, so it applied to new vehicles, but not to older vehicles."

"I don't know why that was done. It might be some-



War veteran Arnold Soulsby

thing to do with the fitting and cost of doing it but I do share Mrs Rowley's concern."

"I think this is far from an isolated incident, I think I ought to draw it to Department of Transport's attention to see if they will make steps to make it retrospective."

"I do intend to write to department if the matter can be considered again to see if anything can be done."

Mr Hawkins had been driving the lorry to Halesowen when he pulled up at a red light in Bank Street just after 1pm on January 30 last year.

Asked by Mr Balmain if he had seen Mr Soulsby, he replied 'no'.

Mr Soulsby, a retired engineer, lived in Miles Court in John Street. He served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

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## HALESOWEN CHRONICLE

## Army reserve squadron to expand

AN ARMY reserve squadron which was once part of one of the Midlands' oldest TA regiments will expand by a third under ambitious recruitment plan.

The announcement has been made after soldiers from the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry gathered at their base in Dudley to watch their flag lowered for the last time as part of changes being intro-

duced by the Ministry of Defence. As part of the ceremony the red, blue and yellow flag of the RMLY was replaced with A Squadron's own standard. However, this will soon be replaced by the green, white and yellow standard of the Royal Yeomanry, which has its headquarters in Croydon.

New badges were also revealed as part of changes as the Government restructures the Territorial Army

into the Army Reserve. Members of A Squadron in Dudley will take on the role of a light cavalry unit providing a reconnaissance during operations as part of the Royal Yeomanry, which has its headquarters in Croydon.

Earlier this year it was feared that the centre in Vicar Street, Dudley, would close but MP Ian Austin secured a commitment from Gov-

ernment ensuring Dudley's Army Reserve squadron will be able to expand. The squadron has around 60 soldiers but plans to recruit around 25 to 30 more to the unit.

Captain Andy Peters, Permanent Staff Administration Officer, said: "We did have uncertainty over the base but we are staying open and we are going to expand and continue to recruit."

## More wardens are needed at crossings

**MORE lollipop men and women are needed to help young children cross busy roads in Halesowen, say council bosses.**

Dudley Council is calling for applicants for five warden vacancies in Halesowen as it tries to increase safety for pupils walking to and from schools.

Among the roads needing wardens are Huntingtree Road, Whittingham Road, Rosemary Road, Portsdown Road and Carters Lane.

Children using the crossings attend Huntingtree Primary School, Newfield Park Primary, Lutley Primary and Lapal Primary.

The vacancies come despite the council needing to make £34 million of cuts over three years. Other councils, including Walsall, have identified lollipop men and women as an area to make savings.

## Safety

The wardens operate across the Dudley borough to encourage children and families to walk to school and provide support in crossing the road. Dudley's service recently celebrated its 60th anniversary.

Paula Evans, administration head at Lapal Primary School, welcomed the move for more wardens. She said: "We have got a lot of children walking on their own to school as they approach Year 6. Wardens across busy roads like Carters Lane ensure their safety crossing roads."

John Millar, director of urban environment, said: "The school crossing patrol service is a long standing service provided by the council and is a really rewarding job. If anyone would like to apply for one of these part time posts I would urge them to get in touch."

The posts are for five to seven hours a week. There are 88 regular lollipop lady and men with nine back-up staff.

The couple were together for 13 years and lived in Laburnum Road, Kingswinford, before Mrs McKie was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2006. She fought bravely

against it but died in May last year, aged 66. Mr Phipps decided to take on the cycling challenge in his partner's memory and began training a year ago. He said: "I was blessed to be her partner for 13 years and feel so fortunate to have shared my life with this amazing woman."

Mother-of-three Mrs McKie, an office worker at the Ridgewood High School in Stourbridge, moved to the West Midlands in 1981. To donate visit [www.justgiving.com/Len-Phipps2](http://www.justgiving.com/Len-Phipps2)

In the saddle Len Phipps, 69, with fellow Georgina Unit fundraiser Karen Phillips

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## Motorbike business plans new showroom

A MOTORBIKE sales and repairs centre is planning to relocate to a new showroom.

Streetbike is based at the top of Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, opposite the Stag and Three Horseshoes pub.

Now plans are in the pipeline for the company to move its base to the site of a former electrical store in the town.

Bosses have submitted plans for a change of use to convert the former Comet store, in Dudley Road.

## Cafe

The premises have been empty for several years, according to documents presented to Dudley Council's planning department.

The building will be retained while bosses ask for permission to transform the inside to allow for a motorcycle repair and MOT testing area.

Parts of the building would also be set aside for motorbike sales floors, parts shop, clothing and equipment, offices and a potential cafe area.

Bosses from the firm say the cafe is a fundamental part of the current site and helps create a 'social hub' for riders from around the West Midlands.

## Continental market visits

A CONTINENTAL market will transform West Bromwich town centre into a bustling European market next week as stall holders from across the continent return to the Black Country.

The fair from May 29 until May 31, and will feature more stalls than ever before and it is hoped it will bring new shoppers into the town.

Organiser Olivier Simon said: "We have new professional continental market traders from France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Holland, Poland and many more countries."

## Polish flights

BUDGET airline Ryanair is launching new flights to Poland and Lithuania as part of its winter schedule from Birmingham.

The Irish airline is launching flights to Gdansk in Poland and Lithuania's second city, Kaunas, twice a week.

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## Teenaged driver in city centre car chase

A TEENAGER from Dudley stole a car and was chased by police in Birmingham city centre. Zohabe Akbar, 18, pleaded guilty at Dudley Magistrates' Court to stealing a Volkswagen Golf and driving dangerously in Broad Street.

Akbar, of Norman Street, Dixons Green, narrowly missed three pedestrians as he mounted the pavement to get away from an unmarked police car on April 17. The teenager, who had to be forcibly removed from the car, pleaded guilty to failing to stop, having no driving licence or insurance.

After a one mile pursuit, officers arrested Akbar, who had two passengers. Miss Jayne Yeomans, prosecuting, said: "Police were informed that a car stolen from Dudley was driving on Paradise Circus towards Broad Street at 4.30pm. The area was very busy."

"The car turned into Gas Street where an unmarked police car turned on its sirens and indicated to the car to stop but Akbar accelerated and narrowly missed a pedestrian."

Mr Peter Jordan, defending, said: "Akbar disagrees with some of the details of his driving." He will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 11.

## Children seek help on drugs

HUNDREDS of children have been referred for drug and alcohol treatment in the past two years in the Black Country.

In Dudley 141 youngsters accessed those services in 2012/13. Seven of them were aged nine to 12.

Dudley Councillor Susan Ridney, who chairs the borough's health scrutiny committee, said: "I am just concerned, with general cutbacks, that these figures do not creep up."

The most common means for children to come into contact with drugs and alcohol is through their parents.

## One season kit

ALBION will only keep their controversial new kit design for one season after a backlash from fans.

The club are planning to wear a pinstripe design next season but will revert back to their more traditional blue and white stripes in 2015-16.

# Motorcyclist killed in France by sleeping driver



Keen cyclist David Cook

A FATHER-OF-TWO was killed during a motorcycling holiday in southern France when an 80-year-old woman fell asleep at the wheel of her car, an inquest heard.

Halesowen-born David Cook, 41, suffered internal bleeding and three heart attacks after being hit head-on by French pensioner Ginette Bock whose car was on the wrong side of the road, Cannock Coroner's Court heard.

Mr Cook had been riding behind his friend Bernie Brinkmann, from Stourbridge, on the D900 at Goult, north of Marseille, when the tragedy occurred just before 5.30pm on June 14 last year.

He was flown by air ambulance to hospital in

Marseille where he was later pronounced dead.

Both men would go on motorbiking holidays across the Continent together and were highly experienced riders, the court was told.

Normally Mr Cook, of Wombourne, would ride in front with Mr Brinkmann following.

### Swerved

"Mr Brinkmann could see in the distance a car on the wrong side of the road and thought as it got nearer it would cross back on to the correct side," South Staffordshire coroner Andrew Haigh said.

"But it didn't and at the last minute Mr Brink-

mann swerved to the side of the road toward the crash barrier. He saw in his mirror that the car collided with David pretty much head-on."

Mr Brinkmann said: "David always travelled in front and for some reason he just said you go in the front and I'll go at the back. We were in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Bock was convicted of involuntary homicide by motor vehicle in a French court.

Mr Cook worked at Evans and White Ltd, Kingswinford. He is survived by wife Joy, son Adam and daughter Chloe.

Mr Haigh concluded death due to multiple injuries caused by road traffic collision.

## NEWS in brief

### Path and viewing platform go ahead

PLANS to extend a path linking three major tourist attractions in Dudley have been approved.

Permission was given for the creation of a shared arrival point for visitors to Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust back in October 2012.

An amended design for the pathway has now been given the go-ahead.

The move will also allow a viewing platform to be created providing views towards Dudley Canal.

### Get rowing on the reservoir

TWO new boats will be going out on the water at a Dudley reservoir to give people the chance to try rowing.

As part of Dudley Council's 'Let's Get' campaign, people can have a go at the sport for free at Dudley Water Sports Centre in a project run with British Rowing at Lodge Farm Reservoir, Netherton on Sunday, June 1. From 10am to 2pm, the event is those age 12 and over. Contact coach Matthew Brighton on 07580 725792.

### Call to help tidy church grounds

CAMPAIGNERS working towards reopening a Dudley church for the community are appealing for supporters to lend a hand clearing the grounds.

The St John's Preservation Group is looking for help tackling weeds at St John's Church, Kates Hill, on Sundays from 2pm and on Wednesdays from 5pm. Contact Deb Brownlee on [savestjohnschurch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:savestjohnschurch@hotmail.co.uk)

### Bostin' idea for Scrabble fans

IF you are a Black Country 'mon' or 'wench' who likes Scrabble, a 'bostin' club wants you. As part of Black Country Day celebrations in July, Tipton Library will host a special Scrabble club where only Black Country words are allowed.

It will be held on July 11 at 2pm and places can be reserved by calling Tipton Library on 0121 557 1796.

### Soul at town hall

A NORTHERN soul and Motown night will be held at Dudley Town Hall for fans of 1960s and 70s soul music on Saturday. Tickets cost £7 for the 8 until late event featuring several DJs. Call (01384) 812812.

# Thief's S20LUN plate led to police busting parts racket

Report by Alex Ross

A COCKY crook behind a £1 million car theft racket has been jailed – after he was spotted by police driving a sports car with a number plate spelling out 'stolen'.

Shanwaz Khan's operation to strip stolen cars for parts that were sold on got noticed by police when he was seen driving an Audi RS4 with the personalised number plate of S20LUN. It was part of a convoy of stolen Mercedes cars being driven in Birmingham.

Officers discovered that the 30-year-old was behind a ring that stole and stripped down cars at industrial units, including in Dudley and Tipton, to sell on as parts via the internet.

A court heard that in total the police linked the brash criminal to more than 80 vehicle thefts and violent carjackings during 2012.

The vehicles were processed at various industrial premises across the Black Country and Birmingham.

Their crimes produced a stolen goods haul valued at £1.1 million.

### Brother

Khan, of Marsh Lane in Erdington, Birmingham, was jailed for seven years at Birmingham Crown Court after admitted conspiracy to commit burglary and handle stolen goods.

His brother Wajid Khan, aged 24, of Brookvale Road, Erdington, and his cousin Seyed Khan, 32, of Marsh Lane, received 30-month prison sentences after admitting conspiracy to handle stolen goods.

Fellow conspirators in the racket Ross and Matthew Dunham, aged 21 and 24, of Charter Avenue in Canley, Coventry, were jailed for five years and 39 months respectively after admitting conspiracy to commit burglaries.

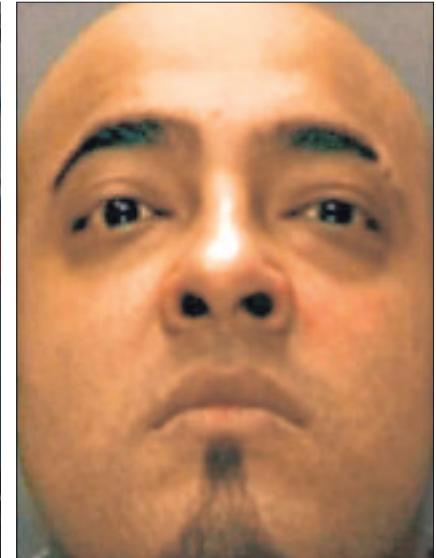
Detective Constable Mo Azir, said: "The brash attitude of Shanwaz Khan was typified by his personalised number plate."

"This was a clear jibe at the authorities and he believed his underground theft racket was going unnoticed.

"The joke is on him now, though, as he starts a long prison term."



The Audi RS4 with the provocative plate that was noticed by police



Arrogant criminal Shanwaz Khan's joke backfired

He explained: "We meticulously pieced together their network of premises and, when officers raided one unit in Aston, we found an Aladdin's cave of stolen cars and parts."

"Many of these were high-value luxury cars that had been brutally chopped up, whilst another premises in the city centre was used exclusively to store engines ripped from the stolen cars."

"The scale of their criminal operation was vast and they showed a complete disregard to the trail of destruction and misery left behind to victims of these offences."

After Shanwaz Khan was spotted with the number plate in March 2012, a six-month investigation led officers to the four other members of the crime ring.

The gang were linked to a total of 82 vehicle thefts during 2012.

They included petrol station violent car-jacking at the Total garage in Kingsbury Road, Erdington, on August 29 when a man was dragged from behind the wheel of his £25,000 Ford Focus ST.

Two Mercedes C Class cars were also taken from a driveway in Grovefield Crescent, Balsall Common, on April 27.

In another incident a Seat Leon car was taken from a house in Coventry on June 11.

### Engines

Shanwaz Khan stripped down the vehicles and stored the parts at industrial units in Cheston Road, Nechells, at Northfield Road in Dudley, at the Kings Industrial Estate in Tipton and in Orphanage Road in Erdington.

He also rented space at City Self Storage, in Curzon Street, Digbeth, to stash sto-

len engines before shipping many of them abroad.

More than 3,000 parts stripped from the stolen cars were sold on to unwitting internet buyers via an eBay account operated by the car thieves.

Detective Constable Azir said: "The premises were leased by the Khans using false names and documentation. Many of the cars were stolen to order for engines which the Khans shipped out to the continent."

Now the criminals are likely to pay financially for their activities too.

Det Con Azir added: "All five are subject of on-going Proceeds of Crime Act investigations and we'll look to seize any assets obtained through criminal activities."

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



DESPITE the sacking of a BBC presenter, the unexplored 1932 version of The Sun Has Got His Hat On can still be found online via Google. Mind you, the European Court of Justice now says Google should recognise the "right to be forgotten" and remove search results that members of the public find awkward or embarrassing. We can probably look forward to a golden age when nothing nasty can be found and online searches reveal only nice things: Gordon Brown: finest economist of his generation. Tony Blair: peace-bringer to the Middle East. Adolf Hitler: popular European politician and champion of the toothbrush moustache.



ONE snag with the court's ruling on Google is that many of us share the same name. Thus, Google will tell you that "Peter Rhodes is a veteran BBC producer," "Peter Rhodes is a Chartered Psychologist," "Peter Rhodes is a London-based illustrator" and "Peter Rhodes is a waste of ink." Only one of these applies to me (no prizes) but am I entitled to have them all deleted?



WHEN it was announced that a new film was to be made of Dad's Army, there was much gnashing of teeth from those who believe the sheer brilliance of Dad's Army cannot be replicated. So it was worthwhile watching last weekend's repeat The Two and a Half Fathers (BBC2) which was badly conceived, badly written, badly acted and painfully embarrassing. Some of the 80 episodes hit unforgettable heights of comedy and poignancy. And some were awful.



**RESEARCHERS** in California have discovered that polar bears have evolved uniquely to live on a high-fat diet that would kill any human. This, according to one report, is why polar bears never need to diet. Another reason polar bears never need to diet is that they stand nine feet tall, have razor-sharp claws and nobody ever calls them a lardarse.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Meeting hears concern at female crime wave

ALMOST 13,000 women were arrested in the West Midlands last year — prompting a summit meeting aimed at cutting the female crime wave.

The number of women arrested represented 13 per cent of the total number of people held by police in the region last year.

Women's groups, counsellors, domestic abuse specialists and reformed criminals had their say at the conference Offender Management: a Female Perspective, held at the police training centre in Edgbaston, last week.

Sergeant Helen Carver from West Midlands Police's Offender management team, said: "The causes of offending amongst women tend to be more complex than men. They are often coerced or bullied into committing offences, like theft, by an abusive partner.

"Rather than quickly process them through custody, we need to develop better understanding of what triggers their crimes to make it less likely they offend again. That involves greater understanding by police officers and more joined up working with partner agencies who can offer support to break their offending cycle."

"That could be counselling, help to leave an abusive relationship, employment training, or drug and alcohol support services."

Around 80 per cent of

by John Scott

women in prison report physical, sexual or emotional abuse within their family or relationships, whilst more than half say unemployment and a lack of skills drive their offending.

Studies have also shown women are around four times more likely to have mental health concerns, especially self-harm issues.

Sgt Carver added: "It is

these kinds of issues police

need to identify when vul-

nerable women are brought

into custody, so we can refer

them to support groups.

"One possibility we're

looking at is getting staff

from women's groups into

custody blocks to help with

that process.

"We know female offend-

ers are more likely than

males to respond positively

to interventions and sup-

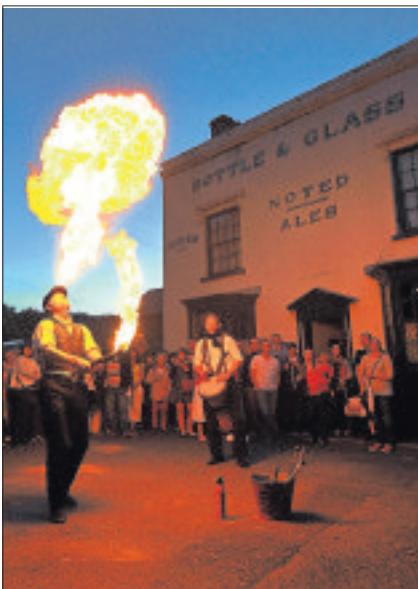
port to reduce their re-of-

fending. I am hopeful the

summit will lead to some

positive action."

## Museum glows back in time



Paul Morris breathing fire at the Black Country Living Museum

THE night sky glowed red like a fiery furnace as a museum showcased life in the industrial heartland of the Black Country.

Families packed into the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley for its Red by Night event under the stars on Saturday.

As the sun set, the fun began as the heritage museum joined other attractions across the country to take part in the annual Museums at Night festival in which attractions open up in the evening.

The museum village was alive with colour as darkness descended with demonstrations including an impressive fire show outside the Bottle and Glass Inn.

Hundreds gathered to watch as demonstrator and fire juggler Paul 'Moggy' Morris breathed flames over the heads of the crowds.

They also had the chance to see many of the museum's main exhibits as they had never seen them before, by candlelight.

During the evening Dudley College students put on a range of dramatic performances.

## Hotel chain recruit 36 for Black Country HQ

A HOTELS group is taking on 36 sales staff at its Black Country bookings centre.

InterContinental Hotels Group, which includes Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza, has its UK guest centre at Oak Court in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill.

The centre, which is open 5am to 10pm seven days a week, currently employs 250.

Human resources manager Sophie Meachem said that the new jobs were because of growth of business at the centre, which takes bookings mainly from the UK but also deals with international reservations when overseas centres are shut.

### World

The full time jobs, which involve answering calls from guests booking in at more than 4,600 group hotels around the world, carry a basic salary of £15,838.

Reservation sales specialists will be working shifts between 7am and 10pm.

The Brierley Hill centre, which also has a dedicated team serving the Middle East, has been going for more than 25 years.

The group has Holiday Inn hotels at Wolverhampton and Walsall and a Holiday Inn Express at Oldbury. It also owns several chains.

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Customer Deposit	£2,093.00
Amount of Credit	£6,402.00
Interest Charges	£670.50
Optional Final Payment	£4,792.50
Total Amount Payable	£9,165.50
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.04%
Duration of Agreement	2 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
Representative APR	5.9%*

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### Personal Contract Purchase Example

i20 Classic 1.2 3dr

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Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£250.00
Customer Deposit	£1,981.50
Total Deposit	£2,231.50
Amount of Credit	£6,463.50
Interest Charges	£642.50
Optional Final Payment	£4,250.00
Total Amount Payable	£9,337.50
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.04%
Duration of Agreement	2 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
APR	5.9%*



Models shown: i10 5 1.0 at £8,495 OTR in Pure White solid paint at no extra cost. i20 Classic 1.2 3dr at £9,695 OTR (includes £1,400 customer saving) in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, insurance, road fund licence, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. \*5.9% APR available on all Hyundai i10 and i20 models. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return: Hand the vehicle back to the finance provider. Returns may incur a charge. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RHT ISU. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 3rd April and 30th June 2014, inclusive. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see [www.hyundai.co.uk](http://www.hyundai.co.uk) or ask your local dealer. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. \*\*Free MOT Offer expires 31/12/2014.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i10 S 1.0: Urban 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 60.1 (4.7), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 108 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3dr: Urban 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 114 g/km.





YOU can tell it's election time when White Dee's antics in Magaluf seems like a pleasant respite from the wall-to-wall platitudes being churned out by our political leaders.

It seems the star of Benefits Street has left her life on the sofa behind, and has found work in the Spanish resort.

Not grafting in an office or factory, you understand. Or even a few shifts serving behind a bar. But, nevertheless, it does appear Dee Kelly has found some kind of gainful employment: knocking back shots in nightclubs, judging T-shirt competitions, all the kind of messy, menial work that the locals wouldn't want to do. It's a tough slog, but Magaluf welcomes hard-working immigrants who go there to contribute to the economy.

"I am taking casual work," she admitted. "I won't tell you how much I am earning but it's not half as much as people think."

Incredibly, White Dee has even been tipped for a role in Celebrity Big Brother.

Not that she is quite ready to retire from the benefits lifestyle just yet. According to her agent (yes, really) it is out of the question that Miss Kelly should have her benefits stopped.

"I'm trying to get Dee fit for work," said Barry Tomes, alluding to mysterious healing powers.

"Once she does that, she will be able to earn good money."

Well people less reasonable than myself might wonder how somebody who has an agent, has released a rap record and has had sessions as a DJ in Birmingham nightclubs is not fit for some kind of regular work.

But the one question nobody has bothered to ask is whether Miss Kelly really exists.

Isn't it all a bit convenient that the latest scandal has broken in the same week as the national and European elections? And that David Cameron has taken the opportunity to come out fighting, suggesting that he would personally intervene to ensure White Dee is not claiming benefits she should not be receiving?

Call me a mad conspiracy theorist if you like, but has it ever occurred to anybody that White Dee is not a real person, but an actress working for one of the political parties to whip up as much political anger as possible?

It's the same about former Apprentice candidate Katie Hopkins, who has since carved out a media career making spiteful right-wing comments about anybody who does not fit in with her vision of society. She's got to be working for the Labour Party, surely?

For all we know, there could be a whole network of undercover spin doctors secretly working in the television industry.

There probably isn't, of course. But just because you're paranoid, it doesn't mean they aren't out to get you.



The market where Boparan's career began



The 2 Sisters factory, in Dial Lane, West Bromwich



Supermarkets are flagging up British food

## POLITICS



I'm a little worried some people might fall into the trap of thinking that today's vote will make a scrap of difference when it comes to Britain being in or out of the European Union. It won't.

Only the Parliament in Westminster can give us a referendum. Whether you vote Ukip or anyone else today will not amount to a hill of beans on that burning issue.

The debate in recent weeks has turned towards being in or out of the EU. There's enormous concern over just how many of our laws originate in Brussels and whether or not our borders are really ours to control.

What doesn't get picked up on as much is it was the former Labour government that decided to open the borders to Eastern Europeans in 2004 while the Germans and French prevented them from working in their countries until 2011.

That was something that happened in London, not Brussels. It might have started on the continent, but it was our own MPs who chose to enact it.

It would also be easy to find the rest of the debates in the European Parliament about as dull as a Eurovision song contest without the dancing milkmaids.

Some of the subjects MEPs tackle on a daily basis are not exactly going to be the ones that people are talking about over the dinner table.

### Websites

Press releases issued by some serving West Midlands MEPs recently have included one who was pleased travel websites have to now give information on how to complain and another who won an award in recognition of his work to ensure exhaust pipes were checked for air pollution... Yawn.

The EU and its Parliament affects people's lives in many ways. One of the things it enforced was the need for websites to flash up messages asking if people are prepared to accept 'cookies' - those little bits of data sent from a site to the user's browser that lets the site 'remember' them.

Nikki Sinclair, the former Ukip member who founded her own group called We Demand A Referendum Now used her position to gather more than 100,000 signatures on a petition calling for just that.

But it was the UK Parliament that ended up acting on that petition, debating the matter and then throwing it out.

The people we're choosing to represent us as MEPs can deal with the continent-wide issues on immigration, jobs, investment and the environment. They are not the ones that are going to get us out of or keep us in the union.

That's one for the General Election. You have at least another year of this row to listen to.

# 'Chicken king' who reigns on rich list

From butcher's boy to a billionaire he champions British brand, as DANIEL WAINWRIGHT discovers

**THEY** call him the 'chicken king'. Ranjit Singh Boparan heads a business turning over £3 billion a year supplying poultry to KFC, Sainsbury's and Tesco.

His 2 Sisters Food Group, with factories in Smethwick, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton, is part of a business empire that employs 24,000 people.

It is good going for a former butcher's shop boy from Bilston who left school at 16 with very few qualifications. Mr Boparan and his wife Baljinder have a fortune of £1.3 billion, meaning they top the list of the richest Asians in the West Midlands.

#### Brand

Various profile pieces about him list the butcher's shop as being in Bilston. Which one, Mr Boparan has not said, although it is believed to be one of the stalls on Bilston Indoor Market. It is understood he began working in the shop at the age of 11.

The 47-year-old champions the idea of a 'British' brand that everyone should work together to promote. But he does not do interviews with the media. His business includes some household names including the fish and chip restaurant chain Harry Ramsden's as well as Northern Foods, the producer of Goodfella's and San Marco frozen pizzas and Fox's Biscuits.

He started the 2 Sisters group in West Bromwich in 1993 with a small loan. Since then the business has grown, acquiring more and more others.

In the year to August 2009, 2 Sisters'



Ranjit Singh Boparan – the West Midlands billionaire promoting British brand

sales increased 28 per cent to £649.4 million, with pre-tax profits up 33 per cent to £33.9 million, leaving a £12 million dividend for the family – an impressive feat during a recession. It is now recognised as the country's second largest food production company.

Norther Foods, which also makes Marks & Spencer ready meals, was added to his portfolio in 2011 having seen off a rival based in Dublin. No-one had been able to match Mr Boparan's £342 million cash offer.

With Asda and Morrisons also on the

list of companies supplied by 2 Sisters it is no wonder that Mr Boparan has acquired the nickname 'chicken king'. British Airways and Harrods are customers too.

Although profits soared during the recession, the business has not been immune from its ups and downs. 2 Sisters confirmed recently it would be shutting its Solway Foods site in Corby, where 930 people make chilled products such as salads and coleslaws.

Losses within Boparan Holdings, the parent company of Mr and Mrs

Boparan are the sole shareholders, almost doubled in a year to £27.5 million.

Sales were up, however, by 35 per cent to £548 million – boosted by the takeover of meat and chicken processing business Vion a year ago.

In a rare public appearance in February, Mr Boparan took part in a debate held by the National Farmers Union and talked about the importance of a British brand in promoting food produced in the UK. And he would know about what people want and buy, having sold it to them every day in the Black Country.

Former Wolverhampton mayor Bert Turner, a councillor in Bilston, says people remember Mr Boparan working at the market.

"He was on the big meat stall," he says. "He wasn't the owner but he started there working with two or three others."

#### Example

The President of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Ninder Johal, says that Mr Boparan's story is an example of how anything is possible.

He says: "It is brilliant to have such a success story in the Black Country. It shows that from humble beginnings young people can aspire to get to the very top."

Mrs Boparan plays a major role with the Boparan Charitable Trust, which is based in Birmingham and raises money to help disabled and disadvantaged children throughout the UK.

Also on the board is the couple's son Antonio Singh Boparan. The family was rocked in 2006 when a Range Rover Antonio, then aged 19, was driving crashed into a Jeep, leaving 11-month old Cerys Edwards with brain damage and in need of 24-hour care.

Ranjit and Baljinder Boparan pledged a substantial cash gift to Cerys's family and to set up a trust fund for her and other injured children.

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# A great day out ruined by dog owners

A GREAT visit to Himley Hall — what a great initiative by Dudley Council during the late 1980s to take on full control of this national heritage.

I visited the exhibition and seated on a bench. It was idyllic, the weather, a mother and friend playing with a young baby and toddler on the grass.

Then a puppy sized black coloured terrier type dog, on a long uncontrolled lead, was allowed to run within ten feet of the family group, yapping in delight.

The dog couple, having difficulty controlling their mutt, seemed oblivious to a mother, friend, young baby and toddler enjoying their freedom on the grassed area.

The dog was allowed to aggressively yap at the party, while those in apparent 'control' failed as responsible dog owners to attempt to fulfil their legal responsibilities.

Unfortunately the couple in their late fifties or early sixties allowed their animal to relieve itself, in solid form, less than ten feet from the group that had been allowing the eldest child to crawl around on the cut grass.

There was no attempt to retrieve

the bowel movement or apologise to the family. They just walked off with the offending, uncontrolled mutt.

As a family, we have owned a number of pets including three dogs and are fully aware that responsibility morally and legally rests with the owners.

I have passed on the registration number of the car of the 'offenders' in this case to Dudley Council and hopefully the appropriate action will be taken.

**B MASON**  
Wolverhampton

## Wasting our money on foreign aid

THE NHS is in trouble due to lack of funds.

Old people's nursing homes are closing down due to lack of funds, drugs that could prolong a patient's life, or at least ease some of their suffering, are too costly — yet Cameron insists on sending millions in aid abroad each day.

I'm sure they could find better use for these amounts in England. It should be spent on the NHS and old people.

Next to none of the money of ours that he wastes goes to the people who need it — the despoils just pile it in their bank accounts.

Even MPs have said they don't know where the money goes, but I feel sure Mugabe and co do know where it goes.

It's time he was made to stop wasting our money and today's elections could be an important start.

**J PERKINS**  
Lower Gornal  
Dudley

### LETTERS | to the Editor

#### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

#### E-MAIL

Dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

## Maglev would beat HS2 for rail speed

YET again our lords and masters have gone off half-cocked. If we must have HS2 why should we rely on outdated technology? Why not make HS2 a Maglev (a British invention)? Has no-one considered this?

At least we would have something a little different to boast about, and we would have a proper high speed line too! 220 mph is nothing when compared to the normal cruising speed of Maglev.

Of course the oil barons and their shareholders would lose out, but let's face it, who cares about them? They make altogether too much money as it is.

And we wouldn't need to import the railway track from Austria (the largest rail factory in Europe, thanks to certain officials) and we wouldn't have to import locomotives and rolling stock either — we could make them all, and the economy would benefit even more.

Just an idea!  
**J BENTON**  
Moxley

## Guarantee call on Euro referendum

OUR Dudley South Conservative MP Mr Chris Kelly said in 'The Way I See It' column in Dudley Chronicle on May 8 that his was the only party that would guarantee a referendum, to be held in 2017, on British membership of the European Union.

If as a result of the 2015 General Election, the Tories are given the opportunity to organise a referendum and the decision of the British people is to withdraw from the Europe Union, will he give a cast-iron guarantee that this will happen?

I ask the question because a quality Sunday newspaper recently stated that Mr Cameron had been asked to give this commitment but had refused to do so — allegedly because of pressure from big business interests.

Over to you Mr Kelly.  
**PETER SIMPSON**  
Awbridge Road  
Dudley

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# Rogue roofers jailed for conning elderly couple

TWO brothers behind a roofing firm which manipulated and frightened an elderly couple into having work done to their home, while overcharging them by more than £1,700, have been jailed.

Jason Charles ripped off Halesowen couple Maurice and Janet Rudge by charging £2,400 to re-point two chimneys and provide scaffolding after he misled them by claiming the chimneys were unsafe.

Charles was caught sleeping on the job, which showed 'obvious contempt to your victims', according to Judge Anthony Potter who jailed the 42-year-old for 18 months at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court last week.

## Jury

Charles, who was found guilty of seven charges by a jury, ran the business PRS Roofing with his brother Dean Powers, 47, of Cherry Tree Lane, Hayley Green, Halesowen. Powers was given a 12-month prison sentence by Judge Potter after being found guilty of two charges at the same trial.

A jury was told Charles, of Birmingham Street, Halesowen, had called on the Rudgets' home in Blackberry Lane in August 2011 and told them their two chimneys were in need of re-pointing. He agreed a price for the work but failed to advise them they could cancel the contract. The next day scaffolding was put up but work on their home was left incomplete and the television aerial was cut. An expert told the jury the work was worth £670.

Judge Potter said: "You, Jason Charles, quite deliberately targeted them, whether or not you knew Mr Rudge suffered from cancer I can not say. I am satisfied you knew he had suffered strokes. He and his wife were deliberately manipulated. You are a



Jason Charles — judge said he showed contempt for his victims



Dean Powers — says he is leaving the building trade to make clean start

large man and you would have been an intermediating person to this couple. You frightened them."

The trial also heard how a second couple was targeted. Michael Rimmer paid £2,800 for a fibre glass roof for his home in Halesowen in October 2010. But despite a 30-year guarantee, Charles and Powers were called back to carry out repairs just two years later.

At the trial in March Charles and Powers were both found guilty of participating in a fraudulent business and engaging in a commercial practice

which contravened the requirements of professional diligence. Charles was also found guilty of five charges of fraud.

Miss Elizabeth Power, defending Charles, said: "He feels totally and utterly ashamed."

Mr Thomas McGarvey, defending Powers, said: "He wants to make a clean start and leave the building trade behind."

Speaking after the sentencing, Mrs Rudge, aged 79, said: 'I hope the Lord forgives them because I certainly won't.'

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Brownies from Dudley, Lower Gornal and Netherton celebrating at the 100th birthday party



A centenary lollipop for Freya Butlin, from the 3rd Sedgley



Hoops of fun — Brownies from the West Midlands playing games in 1952



Whatever the era the emphasis on fun for the Brownies



Emma Morton and Katie Lee, of 3rd Cradley Heath Brownies

# Brownies get together to mark centenary

WHEN it was founded a century ago, the Brownies focussed on activities such as sewing and housework.

Nowadays its members can do everything from abseiling and canoeing to scientific experiments and discussing world issues.

Hundreds of Brownies came together this month to learn about and celebrate the organisation's 100-year history.

A total of 291 girls from 21 units within the Brownies' Dudley Division marked the centenary at Black Country Living Museum along with 68 unit leaders.

The youngsters, all aged between seven and 10, sat through an old-fashioned school lesson to learn about how children their age would have been taught 100 years ago.

They were told the story of how the Brownies came to exist around a traditional camp-fire and also enjoyed fairground rides during the

## MEMORY LANE by Will Ackermann

day. They put on a colourful parade, walking from the canal-side through the museum grounds in their uniforms and holding flags and banners representing their units, before tucking in to cakes and singing songs.

### Smiles

Dudley Division commissioner Edith Jones said: "It's been a wonderful day. Just to go around and see the Brownies' smiles, that's all we want and it tells you that they've had a fantastic day and so have I. It is important for the girls to know about the history."

Emily Barnes, aged 10, from Tividale, who is a member of the 3rd Oakham Brownies, said the Big Brownie Birthday celebrations had been "totally awesome".

Doreen Cutler, district commissioner for Dudley East and

Oakham, thanked the museum for helping make the day a success.

The Brownies were formed in 1914, four years after The Girl Guides Association, which was launched in response to girls marching through the turnstile at the first Boy Scout Rally at Crystal Palace and demanding 'something for the girls'.

When first established, the organisation was called Rosebuds but the following year it changed its name to Brownies, inspired by the book *The Brownies and Other Tales*, by Julianne Horatia Ewing.

Brownies joined in the war effort during the First World War, rolling bandages, and collecting books and magazines for injured soldiers. During the Second World War, when many Brownies were evacuated from their homes, some helped raise £50,000 towards the war effort in just one week by cleaning shoes and donating pocket money.

There have been Brownies in Dudley for as long as the organisation has existed.



Forty years ago — Brownies in uniform in the 1970s

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## Birthday skydive for father-daughter duo



Karl Jones with his daughter Eve Jones, aged 17, look to the skies ahead of their joint skydive for Macmillan Cancer

A FATHER and daughter duo are taking their birthday celebrations to extreme heights with a charity skydive.

Karl Jones and daughter Eve, from Stourbridge, will jump from 13,000 ft to celebrate their 50th and 18th birthdays and are raising money for Macmillan Cancer as part of a brave birthday challenge.

The pair, from Western Drive, have booked to take to the skies and tandem skydive on August 21, Mr Jones' 50th birthday.

Mr Jones works as a community

children's nurse at Russells Hall Hospital and said: "I have wanted to do a skydive for a long time but have never got round to actually doing it. When I said I wanted to do one before the big 50, my daughter decided to join in and because we are raising money for such a great cause there is no way I can back out now."

The pair decided to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer because Mr Jones sees first hand the job the nurses do. He said: "I have a lot to do with the nurses through my job and often care

is as important as treatment and the work they do is fantastic, I want to support them.

"Everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer so it is a very worthwhile cause."

Mr Jones and his daughter, who turns 18 on June 30 and is studying for her A Levels at King Edward VI College, hope to raise £1,000. The birthday fundraiser will see them freefall at 180mph at Hinton, near Oxford, before opening their parachutes.

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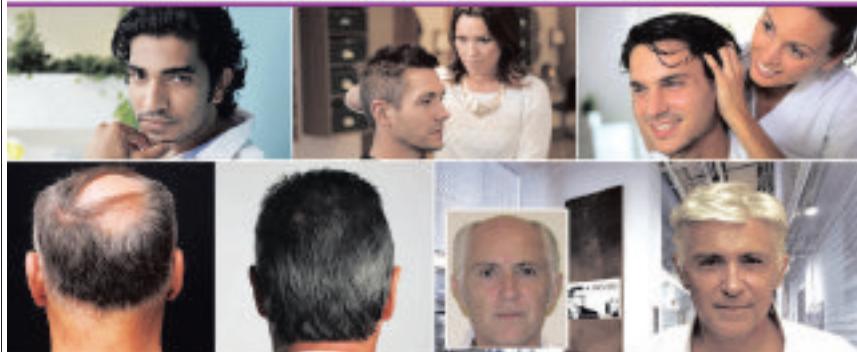
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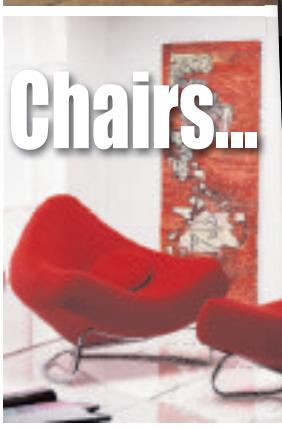
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# Buzz about town over bees' favourite bench

A BUSY town centre was buzzing with excitement as a swarm of bees swarmed around the leg of one of the town's benches.

Dozens of passers-by stopped to get a glimpse of the colony of honey bees – believed to be made up of around 15,000 of the insects – that had attached itself to the leg of a metal bench in Stourbridge.

Soon after the swarm was spotted on the bench, near to the town square's historic clock, expert beekeeper Lee Griffin, the treasurer of Hagle and Stourbridge Beekeepers Association, arrived.

### Cordon

He quickly set up a cordon around the bees to stop people getting too close.

He said: "I had been in town doing some shopping when I came across the hive."

"It's not uncommon for bees to swarm. It is part of the hive's life cycle but it doesn't usually happen in the middle of a busy town and is not something most people would usually notice."

"It has been really interesting to see how many people were interested in the swarm. It's probably something that most people haven't seen before in their life."

He said the bees likely belonged to a local keeper who hadn't noticed part of the hive preparing to leave in a swarm, a process in which the old queen leaves the hive and takes around a third of the workers and drones with her.

He said that as long as swarms were not disturbed, the bees posed no danger to the public.

More help was quickly at hand when Justus Klaar, a seasonal bee inspector, arrived to clear the swarm using



I don't bee-lieve it... a leg of the bench is alive with a swarm of bees



Buzz off you lot – Justus Klaar uses traditional methods to move the swarm on

traditional methods which included a smoker and even a feather.

He said there had already been 14 swarms in the Stourbridge area this year.

He explained that the swarm would be contained and could be safely taken away to a hive he had already prepared.

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## Art in ruins at gallery's show

PAINTINGS of romantic ruins, including six never seen before by the public, have gone on display in Dudley. The exhibition, comprising 51 works, is at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and admission is free.

Views in the exhibition include Priory Hall by HR Dickinson and FH Henshaw's View of Dudley from Wrens Nest. Halesowen-born Amos Green is represented by his watercolour Castles in a Landscape.

There are many pictures of Dudley Castle as well as paintings of Witley Court before it was ravaged by fire in 1937. Other scenes include Dudley Priory, Halesowen Abbey and Ludlow Castle in Shropshire. There are also pictures of scenes on the Continent.

Dudley Council's John Millar said: "This exhibition showcases some real gems of the Dudley Museum collection."

# £600,000 boost helping to improve lives of elderly

**SIX areas will benefit from £100,000 each as part of a pilot project to help elderly people in Sandwell.**

Cash grants are being made available to voluntary and community groups in the borough as part of the scheme to help older residents living in the area. Volunteers could put on exercise classes and offer advice on how to cope with extreme weather.

Under the project extra information could also be made available to point people to lifestyle services such as help to stop smoking and lose

weight, and how to reduce the likelihood of slips, trips and falls.

The areas chosen to take part in the scheme are Great Barr with the Yew Tree estate, West Bromwich Centre as well as Greets Green and Lyng, Tipton Green including Princes End and Great Bridge, Oldbury and Langley, Tividale and Rowley Regis, and Blackheath, Cradley Heath and Old Hill.

The service will commence with a one year pilot, starting in September, with options to extend for six or 12 months to enable reviews on how it is going.

The organisations being considered to take part in the scheme are those already delivering services in Sandwell, which are non-Governmental, and who have local bases with locally-advertised telephone numbers.

David Stevens, Sandwell Council's director of adult social care said: "The aim is to help people live healthier lives longer and to remain independent in their own homes."

Organisations wishing to be considered are invited by to request an application pack from [adult\\_procurement@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:adult_procurement@sandwell.gov.uk). The closing date for applications is noon on June 13.

## Motorway work is to be limited

MORE than 30 miles of roadworks in the West Midlands have been completed ahead of the big Bank Holiday getaway, highways bosses have announced but drivers still face some 50mph speed limits on motorways in the region.

The Highways Agency says every effort has been made to complete roadworks on the M6, M54 and M6 to M5 link in time for the Bank Holiday on May 26. But speed restrictions will be in place for 14 miles of the M5 between junction 4a and junction six, where open excavations mean works cannot be lifted.

There will also be 2.6 miles of roadworks between junction nine and 10 of M6 as waterproofing work is carried out on a bridge.

## Special Bafta award goes to actress Julie



Mum was right said stage and screen actress Julie Walters

BLACK Country-born actress Julie Walters was presented with the most prestigious honour at the Baftas ceremony on Sunday – an academy fellowship.

Tributes were paid to her long and 'spectacular' career as she was given the final award of the night at the star studded bash.

The 64-year-old star of Educating Rita, Billy Elliot and several Harry Potter movies, said: "Thank you, what a career."

"When I told my mother I wanted to be an actress back in 1969, and it's alright I'm not going to go through every year of my career, she said 'she'll be in the gutter before she is 20'."

"And she was right. But what a gutter. I've shared that gutter with some of the most amazing and talented people without whom I just wouldn't have had a career."

Walters, from Smethwick, who trained to be a nurse before taking up acting in Liverpool, was presented with the award by friend and fellow actress Celia Imrie.

## Mum's the word in an all female drama

TICKETS have gone on sale for a new production featuring an all-female cast from the Black Country.

Charlenton Drama Society's 133rd production, Be My Baby, is the story of four unmarried teenage girls in the 1960s who have been sent away to a home to have their babies in secret.

The production will run for two nights only on June 67, at Pennyhill Primary School in Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich, from 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Sylvia Hill by calling 0121 357 4169 or email [hillsd28@sky.com](mailto:hillsd28@sky.com).

Meanwhile, Comic (Comedy, Opera and Music in Clent) present sparkling musical High Society from May 29 to May 31 at Sunfield Community Theatre, Clent. Performances 7.30pm.

Tickets range from £5 for 16 and under, to £10 and £12, and are available from James Bradbury on 01562 730381.

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Paul Webb, from Tipton, whose father Harvey Webb has been awarded the Arctic Star medal



Harvey Webb, seen in later life, with his wartime medals



The destroyer ship HMS Scorpion, on which Harvey served as part of the Arctic Convoys

# Son's pride after bravery of his father in convoys is recognised

**HE was unable to swim but it didn't stop brave Harvey Webb joining the Navy during the Second World War and serving on the dangerous Arctic convoys.**

Mr Webb is believed to have taken part in around 13 convoys, dubbed 'the most dangerous journey in the world' by Winston Churchill, between 1942 and 1946.

And, seven years after his death, the sailor, from Tipton, has been honoured with the Arctic Star medal thanks to the efforts of his proud son Paul.

The medal recognises service between 1941 and 1945 delivering vital aid to the Soviet Union, running the gauntlet of enemy submarine, air and surface ship attacks.

The Government announced last year that Royal Navy and merchant sailors, airmen and soldiers who survived the four-year campaign could apply for the medals.

The campaign cost the lives of around

## MEMORY LANE

by Lee Watton

3,000 sailors and merchant seamen, and over 100 civilian and military ships were lost, with the nadir coming in the summer of 1942 when convoy PQ17 was mauled by the Luftwaffe and nine U-boats.

Beyond the threat of the enemy, the men endured terrible weather conditions, the darkness of the polar winter and 24-hour daylight at the height of summer. If ships were sunk, sailors perished in minutes in waters barely above freezing.

Mr Webb's son said his father had rarely spoken of his wartime experiences and it was only in recent years he had learned more of his exploits at sea.

And the 60-year-old had 'made it his mission' to ensure his father received the accolade for his efforts during the conflict.

"It has been a long process because the medals were first issued to surviving veterans,

then their widows and finally next of kin," he said. "However I am delighted my father has now been presented with the award. All those who served on those convoys were very brave."

"My father was unable to swim although I assume it would have been a requirement for service in the Navy. I don't know how he did it but he got through."

Mr Webb said after joining the Navy at the age of 18 his father trained at HMS Raleigh, at Torpoint, in Devon, and had wanted to serve on the HMS Hood.

### Bismarck

He was instead assigned to the HMS Scorpion where he was a gunner.

Although he was disappointed at the time it saved his life as the Hood was sunk by the German battleship Bismarck.

Mr Webb said: "If my father had his way at the time I would not be here now. His friend was assigned to the Hood and was killed."

His main assignment during the conflict

was on the Arctic convoys, escorting Merchant Navy ships filled with supplies being transported to Murmansk in Russia. It was the convoys' mission to protect the ships from attack by German U-boats.

The convoys to Murmansk were renowned as being among the toughest with conditions rough and icy.

Mr Webb said his father had also been involved in a battle with the German ship Scharnhorst.

That ship had been hit and the sailor helped to pull many of the German crew from the water.

He was also in the fleet which escorted Winston Churchill across the Atlantic to America for talks with the US President.

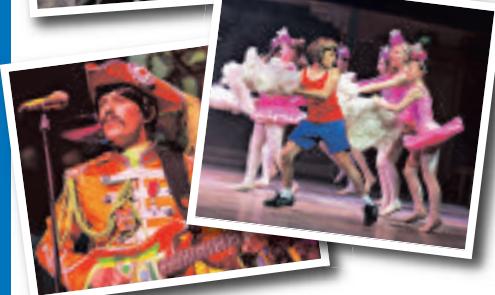
Mr Webb attended the Central School, in Tipton, and is survived by son Paul and daughter Sharon. He has three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr Webb said: "I wanted to do this for him to recognise his service during the conflict and I am really pleased he has now received the award."



The young sailor in his uniform back in 1942

## star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



### Choose your show, price band\* and how you want to travel

#### Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

##### Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

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#### Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

##### Saturday Night from £139.95

##### Dine and Dance from £149.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

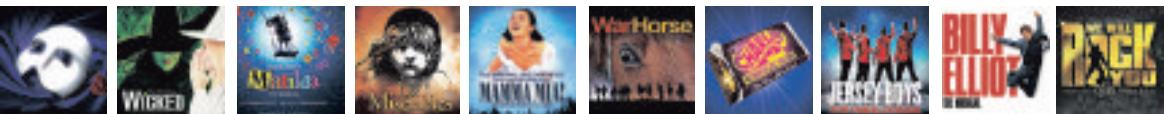
For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.  
Single room supplements apply. for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999  
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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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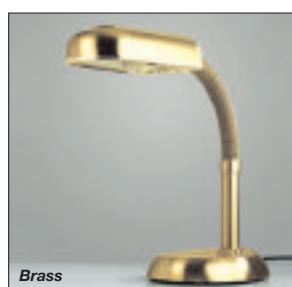
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# Buddy's musical legacy raves on

**Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton**  
ON February 3, 1959, the world lost Charles Hardin Holley. But Don McLean was wrong. It was not the day the music died. Buddy's legacy lives on.

Buddy the stage show is celebrating 25 years, itself an indication of the influence the man had on the music scene. It's the story of the tragedy of an untimely death yet from the wreck-

age came some of the greatest music ever heard. And Oh, Boy! How this show delivered. — Heartbeat, That'll Be The Day, Peggy Sue and Rave On, a constant reminder of Holly's talent. Here was man ahead of his time. In Glen Joseph, this Grand production, which runs until Saturday, has a man who has the looks, personality and sound of Buddy off to a tee. He was ably supported by a superb cast, who all deserve acclaim.

Mark Shipp

## EofE get McBusted showcase

**McBusted, EofE, LG Arena**  
STARS in the making Dudley band EofE were best of three supports for McBusted as they caught the ears of 13,000 with a mash-up of Michael Jackson's Billie Jean with Nirvana's Smells Like Teen Spirit.

It nicely warmed up the crowd of McFly and Busted fans as 17-year-old singer Tom Harris, of Netherton, proved a plucky frontman, whilst Dan Bremner, 19, of Gornal, was adept at classic rock guitar poses. They impressed alongside other up-and-comers Young Brando and Hollywood Ending. EofE showcased new single Lust and free download Kiss Me Like You Mean It.

McBusted feature six of the two bands' original seven (ex-Busted frontman Charlie Simpson is resolutely solo). McFly shot out of the stage as the Busted duo arrived in a Back To The Future DeLorean to play a 100 minute set featuring all the hits from Air Hostess and Year 3000 to 5 Colours In Her Hair and Obviously. They do it all again on Tuesday.

Leon Burakowski

Lord of the Flies, Birmingham Hippodrome

CHOREOGRAPHERS Matthew Bourne and Scott Ambler take William Golding's novel about schoolboys reverting to tribal violence on a jungle island and relocate it in an abandoned theatre where the boys are trapped when sheltering from a riot.

It meant his New Adventures dance company made full use of the Hippodrome, though confusingly the setting still echoed to jungle sounds. The stranded party of well-drilled uniformed schoolboys rapidly turned into a feral gang of swaggering bullies with painted faces, whooping and

grunting as they hunted younger or more timid boys.

The production featured 22 amateur dancers from the Midlands and it was to their credit that, apart from their youth, you could not easily tell them from the New Adventures professionals. Take a bow Black Country boys Brad Guest, Dereece Leigh-Gayle, Declan Lewis, Harry Ondrak-Wright, Callum Osbourne.

Bourne's ballet has menace, especially a dream scene where pig-masked hoodies manhandle one of the boys, and a stunning score of propulsive music by Terry Davies.

Leon Burakowski

## Savage energy on display as schoolboys go wild in theatre

Lord of the Flies, Birmingham Hippodrome

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Leon Burakowski

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**Weymouth** – the charming Dorset seaside town set in Thomas Hardy's beloved countryside with a historic seafront, quaint shops and three miles of lovely promenade.

There are four classes of travel available but early booking is recommended as seats are selling fast

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## Dubrovnik, The Dalmatian Coast and Montenegro

Eight days various departure dates



Be amazed at the views taken in en route to one of Europe's newest countries, Montenegro. The first stop is the town of Kotor, walled with a labyrinth of cobbled streets surrounding its orthodox cathedral, followed by a visit to the medieval town of Budva.

Other places on the itinerary include, The Krka Valley, home to an eye-catching series of lakes where water cascades from one to the next in a series of interlocking waterfalls and cataracts; the town of Split, principally famous for a single building – the huge palace of the Emperor Diocletian, where there is a guided tour of this fascinating complex; the citadel of Trogir, one of the most charming ports in Dalmatia plus the ancient town of Mostar, with its 16th century mosques, Turkish houses and 19th century town hall and amazing bridge linking the two halves of the old town.

### INFO

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Guided visits of Dubrovnik and Split
- Visit to Krka National Park
- Tour of the Dalmatian coastlines
- Tour of Montenegro
- Visits to Mostar and Trogir
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)



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STAR EXTRA TRAVEL, the travel department of the Shropshire Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises).

## Walking in North Devon

Four days departing October 17



### PRICE FROM

**£225**

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- Two fully guided walks in North Devon
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Two days various departure dates



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- Return standard class rail travel (ticket upgrade offered)
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Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5914)

## The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail and Steam

Four days departing August 1



### PRICE FROM

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- Ticket for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
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## Tour de France Grand Départ Yorkshire 2014

Three days departing July 4



### PRICE FROM

**£169**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
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Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Lindisfarne and The Alnwick Gardens

Three days departing September 19



**£169**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
- Visits to Lindisfarne, Durham and Bamburgh
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Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament and the London Eye

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- Return coach travel
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- Entrance to Buckingham Palace
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- Flight on the London Eye
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- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Norfolk Gardens and the Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 11



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Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Two days departing July 12



### PRICE FROM

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Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

## Paris by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates



**£269**

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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

## André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in Brussels

Three days departing November 14



**PRICE FROM**

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Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Iceland Reyjavík and the Northern Lights

Four days various departure dates



### PRICE FROM

**£519**

- Return flights
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation in a choice of hotels
- City tour of Reykjavík
- Search for the Northern Lights tour
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Please note the northern lights are a natural phenomenon and sightings cannot be guaranteed

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)



# Company payroll donation is big bonus for the zoo

TWO ring-tailed lemurs were among the animals to benefit from a recent cash donation to Dudley Zoo from a Black Country employment and training group.

The Dudley workers nominated their local zoo for a donation from their award winning payroll giving scheme.

Andy Christie, who works in the King Street offices of Pertemps People Development Group, made the suggestion to support after getting support from his colleagues and he got to meet the cheeky Lemur Wood boys when he handed over the donation.

"I'm new to the business but thought the scheme was something

I wanted to be a part of," said Andy. "I pass the zoo on my way to work, it's somewhere we all take for granted but I didn't appreciate that it was an educational charity with such a focus on animal conservation."

The company previously supported Dudley Zoo by encouraging staff to see for themselves what a fantastic day out is to be had at the Castle Hill attraction.

"I made a suggestion to our payroll giving scheme and was delighted when a contribution of £315 was agreed," continued Andy. "When you talk of Dudley everyone mentions the zoo, so we're keen to promote it wherever we can."



Zoo marketing assistant Andrea Hales and Andy Christie of Pertemps in Dudley meet lemurs at Dudley Zoo

# £12m skills centre for builders at the college

**BOSSES** behind plans for a £12 million construction training centre in Dudley say they hope it will support the industry's recovery.

The new facility has been earmarked to join other developments in the town's Learning Quarter by Dudley College chiefs.

Officials have revealed the scheme has been included as part of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's bid for £56 million from the Government's Local Growth Fund to support projects across the region.

If successful, building work would begin on the new centre, called CABTech, in September 2015 with the centre opening to students in Spring 2017. It would include teaching and workshop facilities to train people in both traditional and new construction skills.

Under current plans the centre would be built next to the Dudley Advance building in Priory Road.

Dudley Advance is the college's new centre for Advanced Manufacturing an Engineering Technology which is due to open this Autumn.

Bosses say creating the two specialist centres on Priory Road would bring together skills development and facilities.

The new building would also allow the college to relocate its existing craft and trade skills workshops from its Mons Hill campus into the Learning Quarter.

The Local Enterprise Partnership's funding bid is to support the Black Country Strategic Economic Plan, which aims to make the area a better place to live, learn and work.

Officials said securing

funding from the Government through the Local Growth Fund would see the college investment in the town total £50m.

Investment to date has funded a new vocational training centre and A level centre alongside the refurbishment of an existing building into a sculpture workshop.

Two residential properties have been transformed into specialist centres for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "Our ambition to support the recovery of the construction industry in this country is driving this new addition to the Learning Quarter.

"With construction being recognised by the UK Government as one of the 10 key sectors driving economic recovery, it's imperative that current and future workforces are trained and ready to meet the challenges the economic up-turn will bring.

Our plans to develop a centre that can provide modern and progressive training for an industry that has relied on traditional training routes and methods will help to increase employment across the sector."

Officials said securing

# Placard-plea Paul is back on jobs trail

A MAN who took to the streets of the Black Country pleading for a job before Christmas is looking for work again.

Paul Hyde from Wolverhampton was finally offered work at Great Plane Alloy in Brierley Hill in February but his contract recently came to an end. The 52-year-old says he is now considering taking to the streets again with his homemade sign.

"Anybody can queue for a job, you have to do something that will make you stand out. When you walk along the Wolverhampton ring road with a sign, it shows you are determined to work," he said.

Mr Hyde, who lives in Finchfield Road West, said he had never been unemployed until he was made redundant from Wednesfield-based Eurofast just over a year ago.

He spent one day before Christmas pounding the pavement around the Chapel Ash Island in the city armed with a homemade placard.

# More danger dogs seized by the police

SCORES of dangerous dogs in the West Midlands were destroyed last year after being seized by police.

In the past two years West Midlands Police reported a 50 per cent rise in the number of dogs seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act, including banned breeds and those which attacked people and pets.

New figures reveal the force seized 412 dogs last year, up from 360 in 2012 and 275 in 2011.

A total of 181 of the most dangerous dogs were destroyed in 2013, up 30 per cent from the previous year.

In the first three months of this year another 74 dogs in the region were seized under the Act, 22 of which were destroyed. Dogs are only put down in cases where the owner has been through the courts and found guilty of being in possession of a dangerous dog. It doesn't have to be a banned breed but would have to have attacked someone. Dogs seized by police which haven't been classed as dangerous can be found new homes.

# Hassle Free Days Out

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Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route Code	Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route Code
JUNE						JULY					
Tue 3rd	Bourton-on-the-Water & Evesham Country Park	£13	£12	n/a	D	Tue 1st	Abergavenny Market & Hereford	£13	£12	n/a	B
Sun 8th	RAF Cosford Air Show 2014	£26	£25	£24	C	For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)				
Wed 11th	Tyntesfield House, Chapel & Garden (Bristol)	£25	£25	n/a	B	Sat 6th	Wellesbourne Market & Stratford-Upon-Avon	£12	£11	£10	D
Sat 14th	"Nitty National Trust Coach Club" NT Member £14	£20	£16	£16	A	Sat 6th	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express"	£15	£14	£13	B
Sun 15th	London Transport Museum - Alighting Bus - Trooping the Colour	£15	£14	£13	B	Sun 7th	Snowdon Mountain Railway (Scenic Special)	£36	£35	£30	A
Sun 15th	Weston-Super-Mare on Father's Day "2 SEATS FOR £25"					Mon 8th	"A Majestic Mountain Top Adventure"	£25	£25	n/a	B
Royal Three Counties Show - Malvern						Thu 11th	Attingham Park (with Sunny Craft visit)	£40	£40	£40	C
Tue 17th	"Father's Day" (Entertainment and Fun)	£25	£24	£23	E	Sat 13th	Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) House, Gardens & Egyptian Exhibition	£38	£37	£30	B
2 SEATS FOR £14 (Every Third Tuesday of the Month)						Battle of Britain Day	Battle of Britain Day	£25	£24	£20	B
Thur 19th	Swallow Falls - Llangollen, Betws-y-Coed, Swallow Falls	£13	£12	n/a	D	Brecon Mountain Railway	£13	£12	n/a	D	
Sat 21st	Chester - Nitty City Explorer Tour	£18	£17	£15	B	Cotswolds "Moreton Market & Bourton"	2 SEATS FOR £22 (Every Third Tuesday of the Month)				
Sat 21st	"Includes Hop On Hop off Open Top Bus Ticket"	£25	£23	£18	B	Bath - Nitty City Explorer Tour	£25	£23	£18	A	
Sat 22nd	Chester as you please... "Shopping & Sightseeing"	£15	£15	£15	B	"Includes Hop On Hop Off Open Top Bus Ticket"	ALL SEATS ONLY £15.00				
Sun 22nd	Blenheim Palace Flower Show	£28	£26	£20	D	Bath as you please..."Shopping & Sightseeing"	ALL SEATS ONLY £15.00				
Mon 23rd	English Heritage - Alnwick, Borders and flower show included	£22	£22	n/a	TBC	Sun 21st	Buckingham Palace (London)	£37	£35	£30	A
Thu 26th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursions (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC	Thu 25th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
Thu 26th	London Theatre "Matinee Show"	-	-	-		Mon 29th	Isle of Wight, Shanklin @ Shanklin Hotel - Fri 3rd 4 Nights Half Board	£249	£249	n/a	-
Thu 26th	Warhors OR Miss Saigon WARHORSE £65 MISS SAIGON £70	-	-	-		OCTOBER					
Thu 26th	London "Shopping & Sightseeing"	£15	£15	£15	B	Tue 7th	Evesham Country Park & Stratford-Upon-Avon	£12	£12	n/a	D
Thu 26th	Abbey, Cathedral & Cheese Glastonbury Abbey, Wells & Cheddar	£22	£20	£18	A	Sat 11th	BBC Tour at MediaCityUK (Salford, Manchester)	£TBC	£TBC	£TBC	TBC
Sat 28th	York Fair to book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131	£21	£21	£21		Sat 18th	The National Archives - Kew, London To book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131 (Please call for prices)	£21	£21	n/a	-
Sat 28th	Llandudno "Sea, Sand & Shops"	£16	£15	£14	A	Sat 18th	Blackpool Illuminations	£19	£17	£15	G
Sun 29th						Sun 19th	Magic Circle Show & Ripley's Believe it or Not	£125	£125	n/a	TBC
Sun 29th						Mon 20th	LONDON (1 Night, 2 Days)				
Sun 29th						Sun 19th	Jersey Boys, London Theatre "Evening Show" With Overnight Stay (1 Night, 2 Days)	£110	£110	n/a	TBC
Sun 29th						Tue 21st	Cotswolds "Moreton Market & Bourton"	£13	£12	n/a	D
Sun 29th						Mon 27th	Warner Bros Studio, London Harry Potter Studio Tour	£50	£50	£40	B
Sun 29th						Thu 30th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
Sun 29th						Fri 31st	Blackpool Illuminations on Halloween	£19	£17	£15	F
SATURDAY						SAT 1ST	Ragley Hall - Bonfire & Fireworks Event	£17	£16	£15	J
Sat 1st	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	B	Fri 7th	Weston-Super-Mare "NOT TO BE MISSED!"	£15	£14	£13	I
Sun 3rd	Monmouth & Cardiff	£18	£17	£17	A	Sat 15th	The National Archives - Kew, London To book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131	£21	£21	n/a	-
Mon 4th	Bakewell Market & Chatsworth House	£25	£23	n/a	A	Sun 16th	Trafford Centre, Manchester (Christmas Shopping)	£17	£16	£15	C
Tue 5th	National Memorial Arboretum & Lichfield	£25	£25	n/a	A	Fr 21st	Cheshire Oaks Designer Shopping Outlet	£17	£16	£15	B
Wed 6th	Twycross Zoo	£14	£13	n/a	D	Sat 22nd	Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market	£16	£15	£14	C
Fr 6th	Shrewsbury Flower Shower 2014	£22	£20	£18	C	Sat 23rd	Crewe Victoria Christmas Market	£15	£14	£13	F
Sat 9th	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£36	£34	£18	C	Thu 25th	Great Days Music Hall "1940s Christmas Special"	£35	£33	n/a	TBC
Sun 10th	Blackpool for the day... Sea, Sand and Shops (Free Air Show on Sea Front)	£15	£14	£13	B	2014	3 Course Christmas Lunch & Live Entertainment at Wroxall Abbey Hotel, Warwick "A MUST SEE SHOW"				
Mon 11th	Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens	£23	£20	£19	C	Thu 27th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
Wed 12th	Weston-Super-Mare "ADULTS ONLY" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	n/a		Sat 29th	Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre	£15	£15	£13	F
Fr 13th	Legoland Windsor COACH ONLY PRICE ONLY £15.00	£42	£38	£40	A	Sat 29th	Santa Safari @ West Midlands Safari Park	£19	£17	£21	E
Fri 13th	Windson, for the day... "Shopping & Sightseeing"	£15	£15	£15	B	Sat 30th	"ONE OF THE BEST SANTA EXPERIENCES AROUND"	£20	£18	£15	B
Sat 14th	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£15	£15	C	DECEMBER					
Sat 14th	Windson - 10% OFF "BARGAIN BREAK"	£29	£29	£19 (3-1)		Mon 1st	Bakewell Market & Chatsworth House at Christmas	£26	£25	n/a	B
Sat 14th	Weston-Super-Mare on Bank Holiday 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	B	Sat 6th	Lincoln Christmas Market	£18	£16	£14	C
Sun 15th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC	Sat 6th	Wellesbourne Market & Stratford-Upon-Avon Christmas Shopping	£12	£11	£10	D
Sun 15th	West Midland Safari Park	£17	£16	£15	B	Sun 7th	Bath Christmas Market	£18	£16	£14	C
Sat 16th	London - Nitty City Explorer Tour	£38	£35	£25	A	Sat 13th	Telford Winter Wonderland or Telford Christmas Shopping	£TBC	£TBC	£TBC	TBC
Sat 16th	"Includes Hop-On Hop-Off Open Top Bus Ticket"	£15	£15	£15	A	Thu 18th	Nifty 50's Mystery Christmas Lunch Excursion A MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS SPECIAL	£25	£25	n/a	TBC
Sun 17th	London as you please... "Shopping & Sightseeing"	£15	£15	£15	A	Sat 20th	Warner Bros Studio, London (Christmas Special) Harry Potter Studio Tour @ CHRISTMAS	£50	£50	£40	B
Sun 17th	All SEATS ONLY £15.00										
Sun 17th	Swallow Falls - Llangollen, Betws-y-Coed, Swallow Falls	£18	£17	£16	A						
Sun 17th	2 SEATS FOR £22 (Every Third Tuesday of the Month)										
Sun 19th											
Thu 21st	Anderton Boat Lift & Cruise and Chester	£25	£23	£20	B						
Sat 23rd	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	B						
Sun 24th	Longleat Safari Park & Longleat House	£32	£28	£26	B						
Sun 24th	DISNEYLAND PARIS "4 NIGHTS BB"	£209	£209	£179 (3-1)							
Mon 25th	Windson - 10% OFF "BARGAIN BREAK"	£15	£14	£13	B						
Thu 28th	Weston-Super-Mare on Bank Holiday 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	B						
Fri 29th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC						
Sat 30th	West Midland Safari Park	£17	£16	£15	B						
Sun 31st	All inclusive Ticket inc. unlimited ride wristband*	£27	-	£26	E						
Sun 31st	Weston-Super-Mare "Summer Express" 2 SEATS FOR £25	£15	£14	£13	B						
Sun 31st	Best of the Cotswolds Tour (Stow-on-the-Wold, Broadway, Evesham Country Park)	£15	£14	£13	C						

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# What's On!

## Swim Deep to play new venue

A NEW music venue opens in the Digbeth area of Birmingham this weekend with a home city concert by Swim Deep on Saturday.

The Oobleck at the Custard Factory arts, retail and business complex is in Alfie Bird's, which also contains a pizzeria, cocktail bar and exhibition space.

Supporting the indie pop outfit, who last year released their debut album Where The Heaven Are We, will be Brighton band The Magic Gang and new Birmingham quartet Juice.

The venue will be officially launched by comic Barbara Nice tomorrow night with the Moseley Singalong and Felix Martin from Hot Chip has a DJ set on Sunday. See [www.alfiebird.co.uk](http://www.alfiebird.co.uk) for details.

## Art imitates life at New Alexandra

TRIBUTES to rock and pop legends are vying for attention at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

Tonight Lee 'Memphis' King presents One Night of Elvis at the Station Street venue. Tomorrow it's The Carpenters Story paying tribute to siblings Karen and Richard.

On Thursday, May 29, The Simon and Garfunkel Story features Dean Elliot, as Paul, from West End show Buddy and Jonny Smart as Art. Fans of the duo will be able to experience half of the real thing when Art Garfunkel is at the Alex on September 6.

# Grand unveils a blockbuster new season of music and drama

## Home turf dates for rising star

BLACK Country musician Kim Lowings will be coming home for a concert this month as part of a tour which has taken her and her band all over Britain.

The Stourbridge folk singer/songwriter who fronts The Greenwood, a collective made up of local musicians, will be playing Stourbridge Folk Club at Katie Fitzgerald's pub, Envile Street, Stourbridge, on May 29.

On June 21 Lowings will be performing at The Green Duck Brewery, Stourbridge, and on June 30 you can catch the band at The Crescent Theatre Bar in Birmingham.

The band, including Tim Rogers and Andrew Lowings, will be appearing at Bromsgrove and Warwick folk festivals in July before coming back to her home town on September 6 at Stourbridge Folk Festival at the Redhouse Cone.



Black Country folk singer Kim Lowings is coming home

**BLOCKBUSTER** musical Barnum and a comedy that has taken the theatre world by storm are coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, which has announced its winter season.

Panto favourite Brian Conley is one of the stars on his way to the Lichfield Street venue as 'the greatest showman on earth' in a revival of the hit musical Barnum, which will visit the city in late January.

Conley is no stranger to the Midlands as a regular in panto at Birmingham Hippodrome and having starred in drag as Edna Turnblad when Hairspray came to the Grand.

The National Theatre's madcap farce One Man, Two Guvnors will run at the Grand from March 16 to 21 with the lead role, first played by James Corden, being taken by Shaun Williamson, who will be starring alongside fellow former EastEnders regular Emma Barton.

Award-winning play The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night Time, which recently moved West End theatres after a ceiling collapsed, will be coming to the Grand on tour from February 16 to 21. English Touring Theatre will present the Royal Shakespeare Company production of A Mad World My Masters, from February 26 to 28. Classic Arthur Miller drama A View from the Bridge will be at the theatre from March 24 to 28.

This autumn the centenary of the First World War will be marked with performances of Pat Barker's Regeneration. The novel looking at war and its devastating effects has been adapted for the stage by award-winning playwright Nicholas Wright and staged from November 4 to 8.

Two of the most anticipated shows are the musicals Dirty Dancing from September 23 to October 11, and West End hit Top Hat, from October 21 to November 1. Meanwhile,

the King of Pop Michael Jackson will be celebrated when tribute show Thriller Live returns to the Grand from November 11 to 15.

Newly-announced one night shows include The Magic of Motown on July 13, Soul



Brian Conley to star in musical Barnum

Legends on September 13 and the return of cruise ship star, from Loose Women, Jane McDonald on September 17.

Musicals will also dominate the summer with the new stage version of rock 'n' roll sitcom Happy Days on June 10 to 14 and the Marc Bolan story 20th Century Boy, featuring T Rex's hits, from June 30 to July 5.

Meanwhile, tickets are already selling fast for this year's panto Cinderella which will star Julian Clary. He will be joined by Joe Tracini, Hollyoaks actor and son of last year's pantomime star Joe Pasquale.

For tickets contact the box office on 01902 429212 or visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)

**Comedy gala will help youth theatre**  
WOLVERHAMPTON'S own comedy group Pappys, stars of BBC 3's Badluts, are among a stellar line-up performing at the Hilarity Charity Gala 2014.

The show at the Grand Theatre on Thursday, May 29, is in aid of the city's Central Youth Theatre.

The show will be compered by Perrier award winner Daniel Kitson. The acts include Josh Widdicombe from Mock The Week, BBC Radio 4's Isy Suttie, 8 Out Of 10 Cats regulars Jon Richardson and Eliz James, and Edinburgh Fringe favourite Josie Long. Tickets costs £20 (concessions £15). The age guidance is 14 plus.

Get tickets at [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk) or by calling (01902) 429212.

## Going around in Circles at The Rep

AN actress and a playwright, both from Birmingham, team up at The Rep for a play about domestic abuse which is set on the city's No1 bus route.

Circles by Handsworth-born Rachel De-hay is directed by Tessa Walker and stars Sarah Manners, best known for roles in Doctors and Casualty. It is staged at Birmingham Rep's The Door venue until Saturday. Joseph Heller's Catch-22 is currently in the main house. Game Of Thrones actor Owen Teale will be in Dylan Thomas centenary production Under Milk Wood from June 2 to 7.

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SUNDAY 25TH MAY      STARMAKERS KARAOKE

MONDAY 26TH MAY      SHANES FUN QUIZ AND KARAOKE

TUESDAY 27TH MAY      PREDATORS KARAOKE

WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY      YANA

THURSDAY 29TH MAY      JAMES WYTHES FOLLOWED BY SHANES DISCO

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**CHOICE****BBC1****The British Soap Awards 2014**

It's a tense time for soap fans – there's the ongoing mystery of who killed Lucy Beale on EastEnders, and Coronation Street is launching a whodunit of its own this week. But if you just want to know what the sexiest male in soap is, you're in for a much shorter wait as Phillip Schofield hosts the British Soap Awards from the Hackney Empire in London. It's a chance to look back over 12 months of drama in Walford, Weatherfield, Hollyoaks, Emmerdale, and Doctors' Letherbridge, including one of the biggest TV talking points of the year – the death of Corrie's Hayley Cropper, with David Neilson and Julie Hesmondhalgh (aka Roy and Hayley) are in the runner for Best Actor and Actress respectively, as well as Best On-Screen Partnership.

**6.00 Breakfast.** **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.20** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Countryfile. (R) **2.15** Fog It! Trade Secrets. **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Points of View. **3.30** Brazil with Michael Palin. (R) **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix – Highlights. **6.35** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.00** Countryfile. Matt Baker is at the childhood home of Charles Darwin in Shropshire, helping to restore the genius's "thinking path", where as a young man, the naturalist would spend his mornings in silent contemplation with his father. Ellie Harrison visits a project to create a habitat for the rare water vole and John Craven finds out about a plan that saved thousands of lives during the Second World War. Adam Henson handles rare ponies on the Queen's Balmoral estate in Scotland and Tom Heap reveals how and why walkers are occasionally injured – or in rare cases killed – by bulls and cows. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce heads back to Scotland, where a crowd awaits the opinions of the experts at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh. Items include a sketchbook believed to have been made on the journey from England to Australia in 1851 aboard the SS Great Britain, a maritime landscape painting found in a skip and a jade Buddhist lion dog. **9.00** Quirke. New series. Crime drama set in 1950s Dublin, starring Gabriel Byrne as the city's chief pathologist. Quirke is surprised to find his adoptive brother Malachy, an obstetric consultant, meddling in the case of a recently deceased young woman, so he performs a full post-mortem. With no love lost between the men, he is determined to call his relative to account – but as he digs deeper he threatens to uncover a long-buried secret that should have been left untold. **10.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **11.00** Vote 2014 – Europe. David Dimbleby presents the results of the European ballots. **1.00** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This is BBC Two. **3.00** Weatherview. **3.05** BBC News.

**BBC2**

**6.15** Film: The Saint's Double Trouble. (1940) **7.20** Film: The Saint Takes Over. (1940) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** World Cup Films. **10.25** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.55** Two Greedy Italians. (R) **12.55** Film: They Came to Cordura. (1959) Military adventure, starring Gary Cooper. **2.55** Gymnastics: European Championships. **5.30** Charley Hull – Teenage Tigress. **6.00** Golf: PGA Championship. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the fourth day of one of the tour's most prestigious events, held at Wentworth in Surrey. This was the 60th staging of the tournament, which came to a close with the players tackling the par-72 course that has staged this competition every year since 1984. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter. **7.00** Tropic of Cancer. Simon Reeve traces the path of the northern tropic around the globe, a journey in which he explores the environment, culture, history, politics and people of 18 countries. He begins in Baja California on Mexico's Pacific coast, crossing the country's rugged interior, before heading east to Cuba and ending the first leg in the Bahamas. (R) **8.00** The Best of Top Gear. A final selection of highlights from the last two series, looking back at Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May's most memorable stunts and challenges. Last in the series. **9.00** Harry & Paul's Story of the 2s. Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse take an irreverent look at the history of BBC Two, featuring parodies of The Office, Boys from the Blackstuff, Arena and The Apprentice. **10.00** Absolutely Fabulous. Edina is horrified when Bubble tells her she is about to be visited by an ultra-thin model she knew in the 1960s and decides to lose some weight. Guest starring Alexandra Bastedo. (R) **10.30** Steve Coogan: The Inside Story. Profile of the comedy actor. (R) **11.30** Film: A Cock and Bull Story. (2006) An egotistical comedian wrestles with personal issues while starring in a movie of a supposedly unfilmable novel. Comedy, with Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon. **1.00** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This is BBC Two. **3.00** Weatherview. **3.05** BBC News.

**ITV**

**6.00** CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Cannimals. (R) **7.00** Cannimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digitmon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bedtime Stories. (R) **8.25** The Best House Win. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **1.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.20** Film: Black Beauty. (1994) Family drama, starring Sean Bean. **4.00** Let Me Entertain You. (R) **4.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the concluding round of auditions, before Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon make their selections for the live semi-finals. Continues tomorrow. **8.15** The British Soap Awards 2014. From the Hackney Empire in London, Phillip Schofield hosts the star-studded ceremony celebrating the best of Coronation Street, EastEnders, Emmerdale, Hollyoaks and Doctors over the past 12 months. Famous faces from the entertainment world hand out awards in 14 categories, including Villain of the Year, featuring Charlie Brooks (EastEnders' Janine), Dominic Power (Emmerdale's resident serial killer Cameron) and no less than three Hollyoaks baddies – Greg Wood (Trevor), Jesse Birdsall (Fraser) and Anna Passey (Sienna). David Neilson and Julie Hesmondhalgh (Corrie's Roy and Hayley) are nominated for Best On-Screen Partnership as well as the individual Actor and Actress gongs, while David makes a third shortlist in Best Dramatic Performance. **10.20** Perspectives: Bruce Forsyth on Sammy Davis Jr. The veteran entertainer explores the life and work of the US singer, dancer and actor who emerged from the dying days of vaudeville and rose to superstardom. Last in the series. Sammy and Bruce can be seen at 11.45pm. **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.45** Sammy and Bruce. (R) **12.40** The Store. **2.40** Motorsport UK. **3.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** Roary Bremner's Great British Views. (R)

**CHANNEL 4**

**6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** Ginetta Challenge. **6.55** Fif and the Flowerots. (R) **6.55** Bubble Guppies. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier's Closet. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35** Film: Hocus Pocus. (1993) Supernatural Disney comedy, starring Bette Midler. **5.30** Deal or No Deal. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Four Rooms. Jeff Salmon, Wendy Williams, Raj Bisram and Peter Ratcliffe lock horns over a unique silver Apple football helmet, a rare Rolling Stones LP signed by Andy Warhol, a sculpture of Jesus Christ, an antique big-cat skull and a full-size replica of the time-travelling DeLorean sports car from Back to the Future. Meeting each of the dealers in a separate room, the sellers must judge when to part with their valuable items and when to walk out on an offer. Presented by Anita Rani. **8.00** For the Love of Cars. Ant Anstead sets out to restore a DeLorean DMC-12, while Philip Glenister heads to America to research the story of the car with the unique design that was made famous in the Back to the Future trilogy. Very few DeLoreans were ever made, after the company collapsed following allegations of improper conduct. Philip meets former workers at the original production site, superfans of the vehicle and the daughter of its creator John DeLorean. **9.00** Fargo. Gus and Molly team up in Duluth, and while Malvo executes his master plan, Lester tries to craft one of his own as his life continues to crumble around him. American drama inspired by the Coen brothers' hit film, starring Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman, Colin Hanks and Allison Tolman. **10.05** Film: Kick-Ass. (2010) A teenager tries to become a superhero, but finds real-life crime-fighting much more dangerous than in comics. Action comedy, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Chloe Grace Moretz. **12.25** Film: Berberian Sound Studio. (2012) **1.55** Southland. **2.40** Utopia. (R) **3.35** Just Not Cricket. (R) **3.40** Four Rooms. (R) **4.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. (R) **5.05** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.10** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show.

**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fif and the Flowerots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurais. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.10** Access. **11.20** Meerkat Manor. (R) **11.50** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) **1.35** Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment. (1985) Comedy sequel, starring Steve Guttenberg. **3.15** Film: Wild Wild West. (1999) Sci-fi Western comedy, starring Will Smith. **5.10** Film: The Time Machine. (2002) Sci-fi adventure. **6.55** 5 News Weekend. **7.00** Cricket on 5: ODI England v Sri Lanka. England v Sri Lanka. Mark Nicholas presents action from the second fixture in the one-day series, which took place at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground. **8.00** Film: Ghost Rider. (2007) Motorcycle stuntman Johnny Blaze sells his soul to diabolical Mephistopheles to save the life of his father. His bargain dooms him to pass each night as Ghost Rider, a demonic skeletal biker bound to take evil souls to Hell. However, conflict between Mephistopheles and his son offers Johnny the chance to win back his humanity. Fantasy thriller based on the comic-book, starring Nicolas Cage. **10.00** Film: Drive Angry. (2011) A man breaks out of Hell to track down the cult leader who has murdered his daughter and plans to sacrifice her baby. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Amber Heard. **11.55** Car Crime UK: Caught on Camera. How CCTVs and technological advances are helping tackle the problem of vehicle theft, including footage that helped put an end to one of London's most prolific gangsters. **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.05** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show.

**DIGITAL****BBC Three**

**7.00** Rita Ora & London Grammar @ R1BW 8.00 Tinie Tempah & Kings of Leon @R1BW 9.00 Paolo Nutini & Kasabian @R1BW 10.00 In the Flesh 11.00 Katy Perry @R1BW 12.00 Family Guy 12.45 In the Flesh 1.45 Tyger Takes the Perfect Body 2.45 Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D 3.00 In the Flesh 4.00 Close

**BBC Four**

**7.00** The Mysterious Mr Webster 8.00 The Duchess of Malfi: BBC Arts at the Globe 10.30 Secret Voices of Hollywood 12.00 Nat King Cole: Afraid of the Dark 1.30 Legends: Herb Alpert – Tijuana Brass and Other Delights 2.30 Queens of Jazz: The Joy and Pain of the Jazz Divas 3.30 Sounds of the 70s 2. Art House Glam – Get in the Swing 3.40 Close

**ITV2**

**11.45** Ashley Roberts: The Hot Desk 11.55 Totally You've Been Framed! 12.55 You've Been Framed! 1.25 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **3.10** Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **5.45** Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **8.15** Britain's Got More Talent 9.20 Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! 10.00 Viva Tap! 10.45 Britain's Got Talent 12.00 Britain's Got More Talent 1.05 Moni Moni 1.50 The Vampire Diaries 2.35 Life's Funnest Moments

**ITV3**

**11.40** Agatha Christie's Marple 4.45 Rosemary & Thyme 2.45 Live French Open Tennis 8.00 Lewis 12.05 Film: The Human Stain (2003) 2.15 William and Mary 3.15 Judge Judy 3.35 ITV3 Nightscreen 4.00 Emmerdale

**ITV4**

**3.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. **7.55** French Open Tennis 9.00 Film: Serenity (2005) **11.25** Film: Child's Play 2 (1990) **1.10** Monaco Historic Grand Prix 2012 4.12 Motorway Patrol 2.40 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

**12.30** Youngers 1.00 Made in Chelsea 2.05 Revenge 3.00 How I Met Your Mother 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 5.00 The Tomorrow People 6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Troy 8.00 Film: Romancing the Stone (1984) **10.10** The Inbetweeners 11.10 The Big Bang Theory 12.10 Rue Tube 1.15 Troy 2.15 Rules of Engagement 3.00 2 Broke Girls

**Film4**

**11.00** The Long Arm (1956) **1.00** Leap Year (2010) **2.55** Warlords of Atlantis (1978) **4.50** Big (1988) **6.55** Step Up (2006) **9.00** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.10** Fatal Attraction (1987) **1.30** The Serpent (2006) **3.55** Close

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## Film Choices

### MONDAY

**Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, BBC1, 8pm**  
 Captain Jack Sparrow sets sail in search of the legendary fountain of youth. His mission puts him up against a mysterious woman from his past, old enemy Barbossa, now in the employ of the British Navy, and the most feared pirate of them all, the dread Blackbeard. Fantasy adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp, Penelope Cruz and Ian McShane. (2011)

### TUESDAY

#### White Oleander, BBC1, 11.45pm

A 15-year-old girl's happy life is thrown into upheaval when her mother is sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering her lover. Astrid spends the rest of her adolescence drifting from one foster home to another, but her mother remains a constant influence in her life. Drama based on Janet Fitch's novel, starring Alison Lohman, Michelle Pfeiffer, Renée Zellweger, Robin Wright and Billy Connolly. (2002)



Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, Monday, BBC1, 8pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### Total Recall, ITV, 11.10pm

A construction worker pays to have fake memories of a dream holiday implanted into his brain, but discovers his mind has already been tampered with - apparently to erase his true identity as a secret agent from a colony on Mars. He journeys to the planet in search of the truth, but is drawn into a conflict between the tyrannical ruler and a rebel faction. Paul Verhoeven's sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. (1990)

### THURSDAY

#### The Crossing Guard, BBC1, 11.35pm

A grieving father waits for the drink-driver who killed his daughter to get out of prison then tries to kill him. He fails, but his target is so guilt-ridden he believes he deserves to die in retribution for his crime. The pair agree to three days' grace to put their affairs in order, during which time both men face up to past mistakes and broken relationships. Sean Penn's drama, with Jack Nicholson, David Morse and Robin Wright. (1995)

### FRIDAY

#### Casino Royale, ITV, 10.45pm

James Bond achieves his '00' status and is dispatched on the trail of Le Chiffre, an international criminal financing terrorist organisations around the world. Bond's investigation leads to a casino in Montenegro, where he takes part in a high-stakes poker game in a bid to bankrupt Le Chiffre and put an end to his plans. Spy thriller, directed by Martin Campbell and starring Daniel Craig in his first outing as 007. (2006)

## Pick of the Week

# Family matters to Gabriel in new series

**G**abriel Byrne may have lived in the States for some time, but when he was offered the chance to return to Dublin for this new series, he jumped at it – and it's little wonder.

Based on John Banville's thrillers, the series has gone down a treat in its native, but how the Beeb has snapped it up, in a major Anglo-Irish co-production, we get to see for ourselves what all the fuss is about. And if you like your thrillers dark and mysterious, it won't disappoint.

Quirke opens in the late autumn of 1956, where a hungover city pathologist known only as 'Quirke' (who never gets to know his Christian name) stumbles from a late-night party in the nurses' quarters. He hopes to sleep in his subterranean pathology lab. However, his adoptive brother, obstetric consultant Malachy Griffin, is at our hero's desk completing paperwork for Christine Falls, a recently deceased patient.

When Quirke returns the following morning, Christine's

body is gone and the medical expert is curious about his brother's strange behaviour. Further investigation suggests Mal was the father of Christine's child, and he believes the youngster has been spirited away to America under the wing of the Catholic Church.

Quirke follows the trail to Boston, accompanying Mal's daughter – Quirke's niece Phoebe – on a last visit to her ailing grandfather. He eventually uncovers the truth about a family secret that has remained buried for nearly two decades.

Byrne's take on his alter ego: "I think that most people can relate to a wounded past. Some people are more adept at dealing with it, and some people are much more delicate and sensitive and I think Quirke is one of those people who hides his vulnerability and his pain underneath an exterior of detachment."

"His work as a pathologist; I always thought he was much at home among the dead than he is with the living and for him, in a

strange way, the dead are still living creatures and he's the last one really to take care of them so that space where he works is very sacred to him."

It helps that Byrne's passionate about the genre in which the series falls, as he says: "Mystery and enigma are fascinating because it forces the audience to raise questions about the character. That's not to say that all characters are enigmatic and mysterious – some are very obvious. But I like the idea of hiding in plain sight and allowing the audience to play that game with you."

Like Jack Reacher fans smirking over the fact Tom Cruise played their giant of a literary hero a couple of years ago, fans of the Banville novels may take umbrage at the fact Gabriel isn't 6ft 4in, doesn't have the feet of a dancer or blond hair. It scarcely matters. Byrne is compelling in the lead, and with a supporting cast including Michael Gambon, you know you're in safe hands.



Gabriel Byrne heads the cast of Quirke, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

## Best of the Rest

### MONDAY

#### Britain's Got Talent

#### ITV, 7.30pm

Ant and Dec present the first live semi-final, which sees nine of the 45 chosen acts compete to impress the judges and secure the all-important viewers' vote. At stake is the chance to appear at this year's Royal Variety Performance and win a life-changing cash prize of £250,000, but first the contestants have to win one of two coveted places available in the final. And if things don't go to plan on stage, the hopefuls can still be buzzed off - so the pressure is on to prove they've got what it takes.

#### What the Dambusters Did Next

#### Channel 5, 9pm

What better film for a Bank Holiday Monday than a rousing, fact-based wartime drama? The Dam Busters certainly meets that remit, and sure enough Channel 5 are treating us to that classic Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd flagwaver this evening. But have you ever wondered what became of the brave pilots of 617 Squadron after Operation Chastise, the famous May 1943 raids on the Ruhr and Eder valleys? This documentary combines archive footage, testimony from veterans and experts, and dramatic reconstructions to recap the events of 1943, and examine some of the squadron's subsequent missions. They include a daring night-time bombing raid on a strategically important canal, during which the crews faced a ferocious barrage of anti-aircraft defences.

### TUESDAY

#### Welcome to Rio

#### BBC2, 9pm

You'd have to have been living under a very large, soundproof rock to have not noticed that the world is football mad this year, thanks to the 2014 World Cup – and all eyes are on Rio de Janeiro. But this stunning series isn't about the football – it's about the lives of the city's residents, and the daily goings-on in the favelas. As Rio prepares for the World Cup and the Olympics, the Brazilian government has launched a military campaign to wrest control of the areas from drug gangs; a process known as Pacification. This first instalment comes from one of the first favelas to be pacified, Cantagalo, and one of its residents, Rocky, is a delivery man who works everyday, hauling fridges, ovens and televisions on his shoulders, to support his family.

#### WEDNESDAY

#### Del Boys & Dealers

#### BBC1, 9pm

It's probably a bit unfair to describe the people featured on this programme as 'Del Boys'. You could, however, argue that some of them are a tad eccentric. Take Sharon and Al, for instance. They usually deal in novelty goods and use a hearse as their premier mode of transport – perhaps they're big fans of The Munsters. They're travelling to France in it this week, where they hope grab some

great deals at a local auction, despite not knowing the lingo. Canterbury women Stevie and Denise have a more down-to-earth approach to raising funds – they bought a bundle of second-hand clothes at auction and are literally hoping to turn rags to riches via a market stall.

### THURSDAY

#### Meet the Police Commissioner

#### Channel 4, 9pm

Just two years ago, police forces up and down the country felt the biggest shake-up for 50 years when elections resulted in the appointment of 41 Police and Crime Commissioners – a venture which cost £75million, but strangely enough, resulted in the lowest voting turnout since the Second World War.

Consequently, the small turnout meant that some obscure, perhaps 'eccentric' candidates were voted in. This Cutting Edge documentary hears from Ann Barnes, Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent, who was initially against the introduction of PCCs, adamant that the whole idea was naive. However, she later decided to offer herself forward as a potential for the role. Her first year in office has been tumultuous, to say the least...

### Burning Desire: The Seduction of Smoking

#### BBC2, 9.30pm

Despite a growing number of people trying to quit with latest trending aids, cigarettes are still big business. Given that, Peter Tayler is a man on a mission. In this new series, the journalist and documentary-maker travels to Australia to look at the industry's last-ditch attempt to prevent plain packaging. He is allowed rare access to the world's second biggest tobacco company, and explores the reason behind the fact that on a daily basis, thousands of young people around the world are still being seduced by the allure of smoking.

### FRIDAY

#### Live International Football

#### ITV, 7.30pm

England welcome Peru to Wembley Stadium for their final home friendly before the World Cup. Roy Hodgson's men also have fixtures arranged with Ecuador and Honduras before their campaign in Brazil gets under way against Italy, and the players will be looking to ensure they put themselves in pole position to start against the Azzurri. Among those who will be particularly desperate to impress the manager are Raheem Sterling, Adam Lallana and Ross Barkley, who have all enjoyed strong Premier League campaigns but are yet to become regular starters for their country. The performances of left-backs Leighton Baines and Luke Shaw also seem likely to generate a lot of interest in the build-up to the finals, as their domestic form convinced Hodgson there was no place in the squad for long-time international stalwart Ashley Cole.



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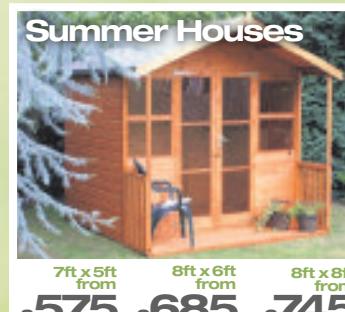
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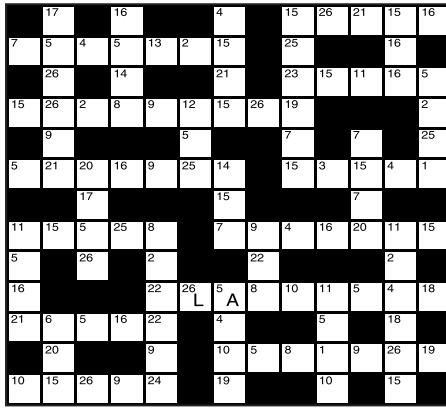


# Brain Gym

No.274

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	W	R	V	O	F	P	L	S	Q	H	D	Z
I	U	E	X	M	C	G	J	T	B	Y	K	A



## Double Crossword

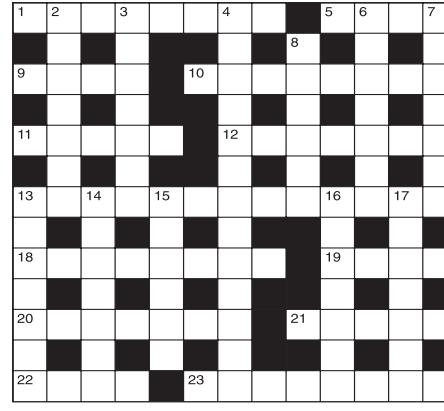
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues: Across

- 1. Do much better than pupils in the open air? (8)
- 5. She gives help to a thousand (4)
- 9. I object to article which is low (4)
- 10. Potentially explosive journal? (8)
- 11. The French doctor with no head for fruit (5)
- 12. Hanging around, monarch finds bird sound lacking in colour (7)
- 13. What Adam's ale might make an alcoholic? (2,4,2,5)
- 18. What the ark may have been for tourists? (8)
- 19. Helps, because I would be it in (4)
- 20. This flower could be a big one (7)
- 21. 11's other fruit (5)
- 22. The last big things in the car? (4)
- 23. Sound one's aitches like a buccaneer? (8)

### Down

- 2. It's no good to reduce one's intake! (7)
- 6. Offer comfort at the organ? (7)
- 4. Letters from the lesser chief cities (5,8)
- 7. Doctor on the brink of taking redhead on digger (7)
- 8. One vegetable may spoil a whole line (6)
- 13. Pleasant, like a loud story? (7)
- 14. Red gown badly treated (7)
- 15. Intense study in painting (6)
- 16. A graduate, true, is different - he's not professional! (7)
- 17. Extreme finish to the greater part (7)



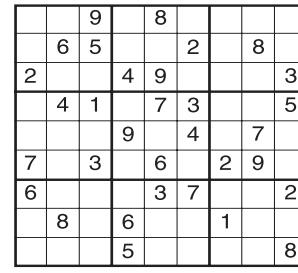
### Quick Clues: Across

- 1. Condescending (8)
- 5. Standard (4)
- 9. Presently (4)
- 10. Reveal (8)
- 11. Arbour (5)
- 12. Equipage (7)
- 13. Accidentally (13)
- 18. Roomy (8)
- 19. Left (4)
- 20. Increase (7)
- 21. Exclude (5)
- 22. Volume (4)
- 23. Extra (8)

### Down

- 2. Exhausted (3-4)
- 3. Strive (7)
- 4. Continuous (13)
- 6. Sentinel (7)
- 7. Very much (7)
- 8. Uncommon (6)
- 13. Immediate (7)
- 14. Mixture (7)
- 15. Masked (6)
- 16. Disregard (7)
- 17. Ages back (4,3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	5	7	4	8	2	9	1
7	1	8	6	2	9	3	5	4
9	4	2	1	5	3	7	6	8
6	9	3	5	7	1	8	4	2
2	7	4	8	3	6	9	1	5
8	5	1	2	9	4	6	7	3
4	8	7	9	1	2	5	3	6
5	3	6	4	8	7	1	2	9
1	2	9	3	6	5	4	8	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Purest; 4 Lathes; 9 Richard Wagner; 10 Erratic; 11 Arrow; 12 Abase; 14 Study; 18 Cheer; 19 Low gear; 21 Make nothing of; 22 Server; 23 Sentry; Down: 1 Porter; 2 Record-breaker; 3 Stale; 5 Adamant; 6 Hurdleweight; 7 Screw; 8 Eel; 10 Strange; 15 - Arrow; 16 Clever; 17 Oar; 18 Waive; QUICK - Across: 1 Clients; 4 Step; 9 Recreational; 10 Lenient; 11 Amend; 12 Begun; 14 Steps; 18 Adult; 19 Inflate; 21 Consideration; 22 Steady; 23 Leaned; Down: 1 Curdle; 2 Inconsequence; 3 Bulge; 5 Torment; 6 Contemplation; 7 Yields; 8 Mirth; 13 Untried; 15 Lances; 16 Miner; 17 Penned; 20 Flare.

## Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

**Simple, free, and all in one place.**

Visit [www.listora.me/2014](http://www.listora.me/2014) to list your next event.



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## wow!

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• Free excursion programme • Dinner, bed & breakfast and entertainment at most hotels

TOUR OF THE WEEK

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**Chester**  
2 days £59.95

**Southport**  
2 days £59.95

**Anderton Boat Lift**  
2 days £79.95

**Eight Lakes Spectacular**  
3 days £99.95

**Longleat Safari**  
2 days £79.95

**Coronation Street**  
2 days £79.95

**Making of Harry Potter**  
2 days £99.95

**5 DAY TOURS MON 2 JUN**

**Newquay, Looe & St Ives**  
£159.95

**Torquay**  
£149.95

**Eastbourne**  
£169.95

**Folkestone & Cruise to Ostend**  
£159.95

**Bournemouth**  
£179.95

**Paignton, Marine Hotel**  
£169.95

**Pontins, Brean Sands**  
£129.95

**Sand Bay, Bath & Cheddar Gorge**  
£189.95

**5 DAY TOURS FRI 30 MAY**

**Torquay**  
£109.95

**Weston-s-Mare**  
£129.95

**Eastbourne**  
£109.95

**Pontins Brean Sands**  
£99.95

**Folkestone & Cruise to Ostend**  
£149.95

**Southport, Keswick & Lakes \*2 FOR 1 BAR\***  
£159.95

**Liverpool Adelphi & Mersey Ferry \*2 FOR 1 BAR\***  
£199.95

**Torquay**  
£149.95

**Weston-s-Mare**  
£159.95

**Eastbourne**  
£149.95

**Bournemouth**  
£179.95

**Blackpool**  
£139.95

**SHOWTIME** £89.95

from

£59.95

various dates 4/5 days

28 Jun - 29 Jun 2 days

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# Extended detached home also has a conservatory



**AN extended detached home in Green Lane, Quinton, has a conservatory.**

It is for sale via Humberstone Homes at £275,000. The property has an entrance porch and hall, dining room, lounge area with a feature fire surround with gas fire, archway leading to a living area. The kitchen has a built-in oven and hob with cooker hood. An archway leads to an inner lobby with WC off and patio doors to a conservatory. The master bedroom has an en suite shower room. There are three further bedrooms and bathroom. Contact 0121 678 7788 or visit [www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk](http://www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk)



## Hicks Hadley

[hickshadley.com](http://hickshadley.com)

0121 585 6667

Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Blakewell Road** £995 pcm - Fees A stunning 3/4 bedroom extended modern family home in this popular address. A welcoming large hallway, dining room/study, impressive lounge with patio doors leading to private secluded garden, kitchen with appliances, games room/bedroom 4, downstairs shower room, master bedroom with en-suite, 2 further double bedrooms, house bathroom with free standing bath and separate large shower. Driveway for several cars. EPC: D



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Hilton Avenue** £725 pcm - Fees A lovely family home in a peaceful cul de sac and close to Halesowen Town Centre. This property benefits from entrance hallway with storage, substantial lounge/diner, fitted kitchen with appliances, large family bathroom with corner bath and shower, 3 good size bedrooms, driveway for 2 cars, garage and a pleasant rear garden. Viewing this property is a must to appreciate the size and standard of this home. EPC: D



**NEW PRICE**

**BRIERLEY HILL, Golden Cross Way** £699 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! A furnished or unfurnished detached house close to Brierley Hill Town Centre. Featuring a downstairs w.c., entrance hall, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room, house bathroom. Benefits also include gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage. Convenient location for Merry Hill. Inspection strongly recommended. EPC: G



**NEW PRICE**

**HALESOWEN, Newton Court** £9650 pcm - Fees A recently converted 3 bedroom 2nd floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Long Lane** £645 pcm - Fees A fully refurbished 3 bedroom detached property, close to the railway station and Blackheath Town Centre. Featuring 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, large lounge with dining area, breakfast kitchen with all integrated appliances, bathroom with white 'P' shaped bath and shower, double glazing, gas central heating, parking available for 1 car. Viewing highly recommended. Furnished. EPC: E



**NEW PRICE**

**HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place** £600 pcm - Fees Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb 1st floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Holt Road** £575 pcm - Fees 2 MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An immaculately presented mid-terraced property in a convenient location for shops, buses and rail links. Features a primary feature fireplace, dining room, downstairs luxury refitted shower room, 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single loft rooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear court yard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



**NEW**

**ROWLEY REGIS, Clent View** £550 pcm - Fees A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development. Clent View features 3 bedrooms, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Beecher Road** £550 pcm - Fees A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**CRADLEY HEATH, Prince Street** £545 pcm - Fees Located in the centre of Cradley Heath. Ideal for shops and transport links. This semi-detached house briefly comprising: 4 bedrooms (2 double, 2 single), lounge, fitted dining kitchen, downstairs w.c., bathroom with double shower cubicle. Benefits include: gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, low maintenance rear garden. EPC: TBC



**NEW PRICE**

**NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf** £525 pcm - Fees A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks. This property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: TBC



**NEW PRICE**

**HALESOWEN, Cavalier Drive** £495 pcm - Fees Located within walking distance of central Halesowen. This modern unfurnished 3rd floor apartment, briefly comprising of: spacious living room with a door leading to your own balcony, access to a large rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing, parking to the front. EPC: D



**NEW**

**OLD SWINFORD Hall Street** £495 pcm - Fees A quaint mid-terraced house, close to local shops and transport links, comprising of 1 double bedroom, 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen with white goods, downstairs bathroom with shower, spacious lounge, small rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, on road parking. EPC: D



**NEW PRICE**

**HALESOWEN, Havine Court** £495 pcm - Fees Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept ground floor apartment situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built-in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D



**NEW PRICE**

**ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road** £475 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! A beautifully presented duplex apartment close to shops and bus links. This great place has stunning views and features a great size lounge, modern kitchen with a separate dining area, sun room and balcony, access to a large rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing, parking to the front. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**CRADLEY HEATH, Hingley Court** £460 pcm - Fees Freshly redecorated and in the centre of Old Hill. This lovely 1st floor apartment features an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer, 2 large double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. Available now. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Hamilton Avenue** £450 pcm - Fees An unfurnished ground floor flat in a well sought after location of Halesowen. Ideal for motorway access and walking into town. Featuring a spacious living room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include communal garden, allocated parking space. EPC: C



**NEW PRICE**

**CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street** £450 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An unfurnished 3rd floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street, local shops and bus links. Features a spacious lounge, double glazing, modern kitchen with separate dining room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



**NEW PRICE**

**BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive** £450 pcm - Fees This unfurnished end terraced property is in close proximity to both Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Brierley Hill. The house features 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, nice size lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC: C



**NEW PRICE**

**CRADLEY HEATH, Great Western Drive** £385 pcm - Fees A very well presented 1st floor apartment in a well sought after location, ideal for Old Hill Train Station, local shops and bus links. The apartment features a great size lounge with a 2 seater sofa, coffee table and bookcase, modern kitchen/bathroom with shower, allocated parking for 1 car, communal gardens to the rear. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Netherend Lane** £380 pcm - Fees Well presented throughout. This unfurnished ground floor apartment is within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station and the Town Centre. This apartment comprises of a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, en block garage. EPC: E

## AUCTION 22ND MAY



### LOT 56 FORMER CHURCH PREMISES BEARMORE RD CRADLEY HEATH, B64 6DU

FREEHOLD VACANT POSSESSION  
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FRONT AND REAR GARDEN AREA

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**Perry Court**  
**Hagley Road West**  
 \* Ground Floor Retirement Flat  
 \* Two Bedrooms  
 \* Shower room  
 \* No Chain  
 \* Communal Gardens EPC=bbc  
**£64,895**



**Garland Crescent**  
 \* Extended Semi Detached House  
 \* Three Bedrooms  
 \* Roof Space  
 \* Side Garage  
 \* Breakfast Kitchen  
 \* Two Reception Rooms  
 \* Downstairs WC EPC=tbc  
**Offers in the region of £223,950**



**Clay Drive**  
 \* End Terrace House  
 \* Two Bedrooms  
 \* Two Reception Rooms  
 \* Conservatory  
 \* Off road parking and Garage  
 EPC=tbc  
**£124,950**



**Hall Street**  
 \* Two bedroom house  
 \* Lounge and Kitchen  
 \* Cellar  
 \* Good sized garden  
 \* Conveniently situated  
 \* NO UPWARD CHAIN  
 \* EPC=D  
**£154,950**



**Oldacre Road**  
 \* Semi Detached  
 \* Two Bedrooms  
 \* Kitchen/Breakfast Room  
 \* Rear Garden  
 \* EPC=D  
**Offers in the region of £99,950**



**Edward Road**  
 \* Traditional Style Semi  
 \* Three Bedrooms  
 \* Through Living Room  
 \* Conservatory  
 \* Lovely Rear Garden  
 \* Side Garage EPC=bbc  
**Offers in the region of £189,950**



**82 Greenhill Road**  
 \* Neutrally decorated house  
 \* GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY!  
 \* Two double bedrooms & 2 reception rooms  
 \* Modern kitchen with appliances  
 \* Utility room with washing machine  
 \* Upstairs bathroom & ground floor toilet  
 \* GCH & DG windows \* EPC = C  
**Monthly rent of £525**  
 \*\*NO TENANCY APPLICATION FEES  
 APPLY PROVIDING APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED BY 23RD MAY\*\*



**Oldbury**  
 \* Ground Floor Retirement Flat  
 \* Two Bedrooms  
 \* Shower room  
 \* No Chain  
 \* Communal Gardens EPC=bbc  
**£64,895**



**Garland Crescent**  
 \* Extended Semi Detached House  
 \* Three Bedrooms  
 \* Roof Space  
 \* Side Garage  
 \* Breakfast Kitchen  
 \* Two Reception Rooms  
 \* Downstairs WC EPC=tbc  
**Offers in the region of £223,950**



**Clay Drive**  
 \* End Terrace House  
 \* Two Bedrooms  
 \* Two Reception Rooms  
 \* Conservatory  
 \* Off road parking and Garage  
 EPC=tbc  
**£124,950**



**Rowley Regis**  
 \* Much Improved semi detached  
 \* Three Bedrooms  
 \* Garage  
 \* Downstairs W.C.  
 \* Re-fitted kitchen and bathroom  
 EPC=tbc  
**£115,000**



**Halesowen**  
**Sandford Avenue**  
 \* Spacious first floor flat  
 \* Two bedrooms  
 \* shower room  
 \* Lounge with balcony  
 \* Kitchen  
 \* Communal gardens  
 \* Communal off road parking  
 \* Vacant possession available  
 EPC =C  
**Offers in the region of £75,000**



**Oldbury**  
**Tame Road**  
 \* Detached two bedroom bungalow  
 \* Recently improved and situated close to Perryhill Road  
 \* Two good sized bedrooms  
 \* Well appointed bathroom with shower over bath \* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room with oven, hob and hood  
 \* Garage and enclosed garden  
 \* Gas boiler heating radiators.  
 EPC = E  
**Offers in the region of £167,500**



**Rowley Regis**  
**47 Carnegie Road**  
 \* 2 Bedroom apartment  
 \* Located on Modern popular development  
 \* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob and hood  
 \* Garage \* Gas CH \* UPVC double glazing to windows \* Private garden  
 \* Available now! \* EPC=B  
**Monthly rent of £575+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



**Newlands Drive**  
 \* Traditional style house  
 \* 3 bedrooms and shower room  
 \* Lounge, dining room & kitchen  
 \* Large garage/utility area  
 \* Good-sized gardens  
 \* Gas boiler heating radiators  
 \* Internal inspection recommended  
 EPC=F  
**Offers in the region of £239,500**



**Proposed Development Park View Road & Careless Green**  
 \* Residential Development/Conversion Opportunity  
 \* Planning permission for 3 houses  
 \* Two with Two Bedrooms  
 \* One with One Bedroom  
 \* Off Road Parking  
**Offers in the region of £125,000**



**Oldbury**  
**Hereford Road**  
 \* Ideal first purchase  
 \* Tastefully presented accommodation  
 \* Fitted kitchen/dining room  
 \* Through lounge  
 \* Three bedrooms \* Bathroom  
 \* Enclosed gardens  
 \* Gas boiler heating radiators  
 \* Internal inspection recommended  
 EPC = C  
**Offers in the region of £125,000**



**Oldbury**  
**LAST REMAINING PLOT!**  
**Plot 6 Pottery Gardens 117 Pottery Road**  
 \* Three Bedroom Semi Detached  
 \* Well Appointed Bathroom Ensuite  
 Shower Room \* Living Room Forming Lounge & Dining Area \* Quality Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room with Oven, Hob & Extractor \* Well Appointed Bathroom with Shower over Bath \* Gardens \* Off Road Parking EPC=B  
**£159,950**



**Bartley Green**  
**Trimley Road**  
 \* Mid terraced house  
 \* Two bedrooms  
 \* Lounge \* Kitchen  
 \* Lovely gardens  
 \* Gas boiler heating radiators  
 \* Double glazed windows  
 EPC = D  
**Offers in the region of £79,950**



**Oldbury**  
**Plot 3 Site of 46 George Road**  
 \* Link detached bungalow  
 \* Two parking spaces  
 \* Two bedrooms  
 \* L Shaped lounge/dining area  
 \* Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances \* Luxury bathroom with shower over bath  
 \* Gas boiler heating radiators  
 \* EPC = C  
**£185,000**



**Cradley Heath Old Hill**  
**Flat Above 158 Halesowen Road**  
 \* Spacious 1st floor flat  
 \* Large double bedroom with wardrobe  
**\*\*SECURE GATED CAR PARK\*\***  
 \* Neutral decoration & DG windows  
 \* Electric heating \* Neutral carpets/door coverings \* MUST VIEW \* EPC=E  
**Monthly rent of £365+** application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

## humberstones homes

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www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk



**GREENACRES, BARTLEY GREEN**  
**DETACHED & WELL PRESENTED modern family home.**  
 Lounge & separate dining room. FITTED kitchen & downstairs WC. 3 bedrooms with FITTED wardrobes & family bathroom. DRIVEWAY to front & lawn garden to rear & side. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: C Ref: D1420  
**£176,950** Ref: D1420



**WEST BOULEVARD, QUINTON**  
**LARGE 4 bedroom semi-detached home with gated DRIVEWAY.** 25ft lounge diner & 14ft 9 kitchen. Having a downstairs bathroom. Four bedrooms & WC on first floor. Driveway giving off road parking for SEVERAL VEHICLES. Lawn garden to rear. Gas central heating & majority double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1454  
**£149,950** Ref: D1454



**CHICHESTER DRIVE, QUINTON**  
**WELL PRESENTED end terraced home overlooking PARK to rear.** REFITTED 12ft kitchen & 18ft lounge diner. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 good size bedrooms. GARAGE & driveway. Lawn rear garden with PRIVATE aspect. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: C Ref: D1435  
**£149,950** Ref: D1435



**RIDGACRE RD WEST, QUINTON**  
**Traditional semi-det home with DRIVEWAY giving off road parking.** Rear garden having SOUTHERLY aspect. Dining area leading to kitchen with separate lounge to front. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC rating: Ref: D1457  
**£145,000** Ref: D1457



**PINWOOD DRIVE, BARTLEY GREEN**  
**EXTENDED family home on CORNER PLOT position.** GARAGE & driveway - potential to extend to side. 16ft lounge diner & 11ft breakfast kitchen. Benefits from s/ds. 3 GOOD size bedrooms & family bathroom. Gas central heating & double glazing fitted. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: D Ref: D1449  
**£144,950** Ref: D1449



**BREWERS SQUARE, EDGBASTON**  
**SPACIOUS top floor apartment in SOUGHT AFTER development off City Road.** 14ft lounge leading to FITTED kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms, en suite shower room & further family bathroom. ALLOCATED parking to rear. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing. EPC rating: C Ref: D1456  
**£137,950** Ref: D1456



**HAGLEY RD WEST, OLDBURY**  
**EXTENDED semi-detached home with GARAGE.** 26ft 11 max lounge/dining room & Plymouth/Bed 4. EXTENDED fitted kitchen & downstairs WC. 3 bedrooms & bathroom. Well proportioned enclosed rear gardens & garage. Fitted with UPVC double glazing (in part). Benefiting from gas central heating (combi boiler). Well positioned for local amenities & public transport EPC rating: E Ref: D1377  
**£137,500** Ref: D1377



**WOODRIDGE AVENUE, QUINTON**  
**REFURBISHED terraced "Bryant" built home in CUL-DE-SAC location.** REFITTED kitchen with appliances. 15ft lounge diner overlooking PRIVATE lawned garden. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & bathroom. 2 allocated parking spaces. Newly fitted UPVC double glazing (except front door). Benefits from gas central heating. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: C Ref: D1451  
**£129,950** Ref: D1451



**BOLNEY ROAD, QUINTON**  
**EXTENDED & well presented home.** DRIVEWAY to front off road parking. REFITTED & extended dining kitchen. REFITTED bathroom with white suite & shower. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms. Having D/S WC. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing fitted. Lawn gardens to rear. ● COMPLETION APPROX END OF OCTOBER ● EPC rating: E Ref: D1448  
**£104,950** Ref: D1488



**CLEWLEY GROVE, QUINTON**  
**REFURBISHED 1st floor maisonette with BALCONY to rear.** great views over PARKLAND. REFITTED breakfast kitchen with appliances. 14ft lounge to front. REFITTED shower room & REFITTED WC. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms to rear. ● NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas central heating fitted. Gardens to side & rear. EPC rating: D Ref: D1455  
**£99,950** Ref: D1455



**EDEN GARDENS, ROWLEY REGIS**  
**SPACIOUS ground floor apartment with PARKING to rear.** NO UPWARD CHAIN Occupying a cul-de-sac position In MODERN block close to shops and amenities. 22ft Open plan LIVING AREA with lounge/diner and kitchen. Master bedroom with fitted wardrobes, second bedroom & bathroom with fitted shower cubicle. UPVC DG & ALARM. SECURE INTERCOM ENTRY SYSTEM. EPC Rating C Ref: D1251  
**£94,950** Ref: D1251



**THE LAURELS, OLDBURY**  
**SPACIOUS 1st floor apartment with ALLOCATED PARKING.** 17ft lounge diner & FITTED 10ft kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & a box room. Bathroom with shower cubicle also. Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: C Ref: D1376  
**£92,950** Ref: D1376



# YOUR MOVE

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## OLDBURY



## OLDBURY



## QUINTON



## OLDBURY



## OLDBURY

**SUNNYBANK ROAD**  

- Immaculate Detached Bungalow EPC Rating C
- Lounge Fitted Breakfast Kitchen Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms Master En-suite Family Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

**£329,950** QUINTON 0121 4217766

**OAK ROAD**  

- Traditional Bay Fronted Link Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Fired Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Side Garage Driveway Rear Garden

**£199,950** QUINTON 0121 4217766

**REDUCED QUINTON LANE**  

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Separate W/c
- Block Paved Drive Large Rear Garden Double Garage To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Recommended

**£180,000** QUINTON 0121 4217766

**NEW WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD**  

- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Breakfast Kitchen Ground Floor W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Property Benefits From Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing

**£165,000** QUINTON 0121 4217766

**REDUCED LINKS ROAD**  

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen D'stairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Large Plot To Side Of Property No Upward Chain

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- Modern Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
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- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Gardens To Front Rear and Side
- Cul-de-sac Location Viewing Recommended

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- Modern Mid Town House EPC Rating C
- Lounge-Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Rear Garden Off Road Parking and Garage En-bloc
- No Upward Chain Viewing Highly Recommended

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**NEW CORNWALL AVENUE**  

- Well Presented End Terrace Property EPC
- Through Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room W/c
- Drive Way And Garden To Front Garden To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

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**NORTHFIELD ROAD**  

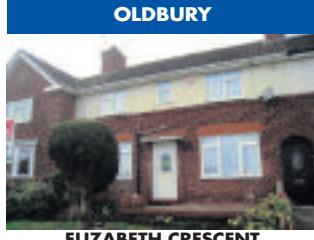
- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom Access To Loft
- Walled Frontage Garden To The Rear
- Benefits From Double Glazing Central Heating And No Upward Chain

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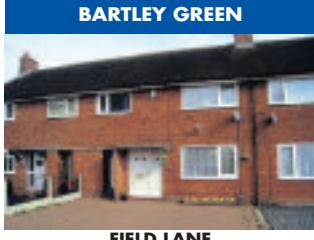
**YORK ROAD**  

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Utility Room Cloaks W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

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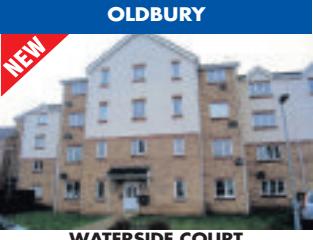
## OLDBURY



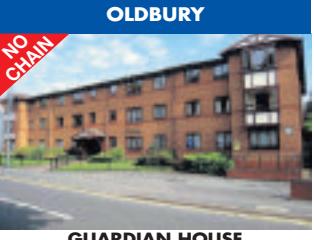
## BARTLEY GREEN



## WOODGATE



## OLDBURY



## OLDBURY

**ELIZABETH CRESCENT**  

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens

**£125,000** QUINTON 0121 4217766

**FIELD LANE**  

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Through Lounge Kitchen Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Block Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing

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**NO CHAIN WOODGATE GARDENS**  

- Mid Terraced Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen-Diner Clockroom W/c
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- Front and Rear Gardens
- Recently Re-furbished No Upward Chain

**£99,950** QUINTON 0121 4217766

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- Top Floor Apartment EPC Rating C
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- Allocated Parking Space No Upward Chain

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- First Floor Retirement Apartment EPC Rating C
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- Property Benefits From No Upward Chain

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**ARLA**



# Honda's automatic miracle

**By John Griffiths**

**And now for something completely different: well, for me anyway.**

Honda's new and much improved NC750S was designed to be a new style of fun but user-friendly form of two wheeler with the option of a hi-tech automatic gearbox. And it certainly adds a new dimension to motorcycling.

If you have any preconceptions about auto gearboxes based on the traditional continuously variable transmissions (CVT) used on small scooters then forget it.

Honda's DCT system much more responsive, quicker and more efficient. It's an electronically-controlled dual clutch system very similar to the

'DSG' used in Audis, VWs and some high performance sports cars.

It was first revealed about four years or so ago as an option on the big VFR1200 and the NC700, and that now fitted to the NC750 is effectively the second generation, mated in this case to a bike with more power and torque than its predecessor.

This was the first time that I had ridden a bike with this system and found it something of a revelation. It is almost, if not impossible, to stall, it's silky smooth and snatch-free at low speeds and one of the easiest bikes I've ever ridden.

Add to that its light weight, low centre of gravity and excellent balance, and it's ideal for town traffic as well as rewarding on the open road, too.

It wasn't built for sports bike performance, with a modest 54bhp from its 750cc twin cylinder engine. But that is 75cc larger than its NC750 predecessor and therefore comes with a useful extra helping of power and torque for surprisingly peppy performance.

The NC750S is an adventure style machine with a particularly comfortable saddle and upright riding position, providing comfort and an excellent view ahead. If you don't fancy the styling Honda has used the same underpinnings for the Integra – a big scooter – or the trailie styled 750X.

There's a lot of innovative design involved, particularly in making the 750cc twin one of the lightest engines of its kind. It's also fitted with balancer shafts which very successfully smooth out vibrations.

Once on the move I couldn't actu-

ally hear the engine above the wind in my helmet (the flip front kind which is, admittedly, notoriously noisy). That's a shame since while pulling away the slow 'thump thump' of a big twin was pleasantly nostalgic for those of us around in the Sixties.

The Honda also differs from most competitors in that it has a 'boot'. The fuel tank is under the seat, and what appears to be a tank in front of the saddle is in fact a lockable cargo space big enough to take a full-face helmet.

On the auto version, manual or auto gearchange mode is selected with a trigger switch on the right hand grip, while a thumb switch selects neutral, drive or sport modes.

### Honest

With your left hand (which, of course, has no clutch to worry about) you use either a finger or thumb for manual up or down changes. To be honest, I didn't bother much as for a riding style which goes with this kind of bike the auto mode is perfectly suited.

For the die-hards amongst us, a foot pedal for manual gearchanging is an optional extra.

In Drive mode the electronics get you into top (sixth) gear as soon as possible – usually under 40mph and will hold you there as long as it can. I found it the best choice around town and on the motorway, and it would no doubt reduce the risk of spinning up the back tyre in the wet.

There is the equivalent of a 'kick down' for overtaking. Give the throttle



a determined twist of the wrist and the electronics interpret your intentions, changing down one or two gears probably as quickly as most riders for a burst of acceleration.

Or you could just press the 'down' button a couple of times, of course.

Gear shifting is seamless at any speed adding to the bike's characteristic smoothness.

In Sport mode the gearbox hangs on to the lower gears for longer and to higher revs – you usually need to pass 60mph to get top for example – to make more of the Honda's performance potential.

I found it better than 'drive' for more

challenging, twisty roads as it also changes down more readily, giving you more engine braking while setting up for a bend or roundabout. And more flexible drive and acceleration out the other side, naturally.

Drive mode is obviously the economical option, with a remarkable 81.6mpg average claimed for the NC750S.

That's Honda's figure but I don't doubt its accuracy. I chose some of the most challenging b-roads I know on the Welsh borders for the test ride, and even in Sport mode still averaged over 74mpg.

The bike's low centre of gravity and

excellent frame make it a nimble, really 'flickable' machine, unlike some of the bigger, heavier enduro machines, which really flattered my riding style.

The NC750 has only one, instead of the usual two, discs at the front but braking is nevertheless well up to stopping a machine of this weight.

It probably won't appeal to the sports bike enthusiast, but with its user-friendly nature and economy, particularly around town, it may well tempt a few commuters on to two wheels.

Price: £6,299 (manual transmission) £6,899 (DCT).

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# Drivetime

## Top award for the Jazz

Honda's popular Jazz supermini has scooped the Most Reliable Used Car in the Auto Express Driver Power survey, with an impressive reliability score of 98 per cent.

Up 1.2 per cent on 2013, the British-built Honda Jazz climbed two places to take the top podium finish in this year's results.

The 2014 Auto Express Driver Power survey asked more than 50,000 car owners to rate their used cars in ten different categories including reliability, performance, road handling and practicality. The Honda Accord was also placed highly, with a score of 95 per cent, earning fourth place in the build quality category.

Philip Crossman, managing director, Honda (UK) said: "This is great news for Honda and a testament to the great cars we manufacture here in the UK."

"The Jazz has always been a strong performer in terms of reliability and the 2014 Auto Express Driver Power Survey award further reinforces the success of the car".

The Auto Express Driver Power Survey is Britain's most influential car reliability and satisfaction survey, with more than 50,000 customer and readers taking part in this year's poll.

The survey reveals the top 150 cars, new and used, to own in 2014.

The award follows a string of recent successes for the Jazz and for Honda cars on the whole.

Honda Jazz variants took the two top spots in the 2013 Which? Car Survey Supermini Best Buy category. Owners placed three Jazz variants in the Supermini chart top ten, taking first and second with the current models. As a further boost, Honda cars feature prominently throughout the survey as being amongst the most reliable in their categories, with older and newer generations featuring alongside one another.

The Jazz is available with two snappy i-VTEC petrol engines – 1.2 and 1.4 – and Honda's efficient hybrid IMA technology.

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**LOST**—Car key and remote fob, Shaw Road, Coseley area on May 9, Good reward. 01902 651115.

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Alfie, grey and white short haired cat, white paws, white chest, was wearing red collar, Tamebridge Estate, Walsall, £100 on return. Last seen, April 13, please look in your gardens. 07455 111629

## 1 Family

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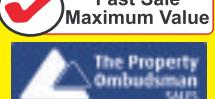
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## Glassboys' friendlies include Harriers

**S T O U R B R I D G E ' S** pre-season schedule for the 2014/15 season will include home games against Conference sides Kidderminster Harriers and Solihull Moors.

The Harriers, of the Conference Premier Division, launch the Glassboys' warm-up programme with a visit to Amblecote on July 15, while Stourbridge will entertain Conference North Solihull Moors two weeks later on July 29. Both matches will kick off at 7.45pm.

Matches have also been arranged away to Boldmere St Michaels and Stourport Swifts of the Midland Alliance, Evesham United of the Southern League South & West Division, and Sutton Coldfield Town o.

Supporters should keep an eye on the website and Twitter (@SFCOfficial) for updates. The schedule is: Tuesday July 15 Kidderminster Harriers (Home) 7.45pm; Saturday July 19 - Boldmere St Michaels (Away) 3pm; Tuesday July 22 - Evesham United (Away) 7.45pm; Thursday July 24 - Stourport Swifts (Away) 7.45pm; Tuesday July 29 - Solihull Moors (Home) 7.45pm; Saturday August 2 - Sutton Coldfield Town (Away) 3pm

## Grappling with style of Mexico

A TOUCH of Mexico will be brought to the Black Country when an international pro wrestling night takes place this month.

Juventud 'The Juice' Guerrera will be coming to Willenhall for the Pro Wrestling bill at Gilbert's Club, Field Street, taking place on May 23.

He will join Walsall wrestler Matt Powell, known to his fans as Mad Dog Maxx, in the ring with Willenhall stars Kristopher Parr and Michael Jones, both aged 25.

Mr Powell, aged 29, said he hoped the event would be a hit.

Doors open 7pm and the show starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 each or £17.50 for a family of four or call 07747 441028.

# Days of wine and prizes for runners

## Running

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club certainly made hay while the sun was shone this weekend and claiming the prizes although rather than a trophy cabinet it may be a wine rack that is needed based on what the runners received.

On Saturday the blue hoops registered a team in the British Masters Road Relays Championships.

The event held at a sun-drenched Sutton Park attracted teams from around the country with Altrincham AC, Les Croupiers from South Wales and Salford Harriers claiming the medals in the M35 age group.

DK finished in 32nd place on the day. Their six legs of three miles taking a total of 1.58.32 with Phil Smith clocking 20.17, Mark Judge 20.27, Dave Norman 18.50, Richard Jones 19.49, Graham Wildgoose 19.54 and Gary Bonner in 19.15.

Twenty four hours later a small group of DK runners travelled the short distance towards Hagle to take part in the Cobra Classic 10k road race event.

A testing road race where the first half is

flat and even slightly downhill but the second half more than makes up for it as the course rises steeply and the runners would be better off with mountain climbers' crampons rather than trainers.

This adds a good three or four minutes to a standard 10k time as the lactic acid builds up in the legs and runners are reduced to a shuffle because of the incline.

Dave Norman was first back in 13th place in 42.38 in his second race of the weekend, Graham Wildgoose claimed the 1st MV50 place in 23rd in 45.36, Helen Tromans also claimed an age group prize bagging 1st

FV40 in 24th place in 45.59, Mark Homer finished in 47.26 for 29th place, Mark Judge was 38th in 49.25, Carol Fisher was 1st FV50 and 59th overall in 55.00 and Debbie Richards was 82nd in 1.02.22.

Elsewhere in deepest Shropshire Preston Grundy completed the Wenlock Olympian Society Marathon in 7.16.57.

Taking on the shorter version Dave Hickman was 25th in 2.03.46 to claim the 1st MV50 medal and Dave Fennell finished in 2.04.35 in 29th place to claim the MV50 2nd place.

## Losing toss sets the tone of match

**Stourbridge 2nd XI 104**  
**Bromsgrove 2nd XI**  
**306-4**  
**(Bromsgrove win)**

LOSING the toss did not help skipper Mikes Patel taking on Bromsgrove one of the top sides in the Division Two 2nd XI South.

Heat came from the bat of No.3 Duncan Roke who piled up 176 with 21 fours and eight sixes.

Things did go from bad to worse for the home skipper as his side collapsed at 104 on the 35th over. Opener Alex Spence 26 and James Winders 39 were the backbone to the Stour's brief innings that contained six ducks.

**Stourbridge 3rds XI 93**  
**Kempsey 1sts XI 174**  
**(Kempsey win)**

Skipper Dave Colesby resigned to the fact that his team was facing the 1st XI decided to bat first having won the toss.

His hopes of decent score failed to materialise Stour all out for 93 in the 48th over Irfan Ahmad top scored with 20 towards the end of the innings.

It took Kempsey just 14 overs to overtake Stour target. Tristan Robinson made 55 with eight fours and two sixes.

**Kempsey 2nd XI 273-9**  
**Stourbridge 4th XI 324-7**  
**(Stourbridge win)**

# Gardner is happy to come 'back home'

**CRAIG GARDNER** has predicted returning 'home' will bring out his best after the former Villa and Birmingham midfielder sealed his free-transfer move to Albion.

Gardner put pen to paper on a three-year Hawthorns contract with a one-year option.

He passed his medical on Monday and will join the club officially on July 1.

And the 27-year-old, who is originally from Solihull, was released by Sunderland following three years on Wearside, reckons returning to his native West Midlands will see him shine for the Baggies.

"It's a pleasure to be here," said the Brummie.

"It's a great club. I've got a lot of friends here and I'm just buzzing that I'm back at home in the Midlands where I enjoy my football the most and feel I play my best football."

"They've always said good things about the club. But they didn't need to sell it to me because I was already taken. It's a great place.

"Sess is a top player. I'm looking forward to playing with him again."

Gardner will meet his new team-mates for the first time when he reports for pre-season training in early July.

Director of football administration Richard Garlick is delighted to have strengthened the club's midfield options.

"Craig is someone we have followed for a long time and we are delighted to finally get him," he said.

"We tried to bring him here in the January transfer window but it did not work out."

"He has the flexibility to play in a few positions across the midfield."

## Football

those released, and Ben Foster helped ease through his move to The Hawthorns along with the chance to link up again with former Black Cats team-mate Stephane Sessegnon.

"Fozzy is a good friend and it's the same with Ridgy as well," said Gardner.

"They've always said good things about the club. But they didn't need to sell it to me because I was already taken. It's a great place.

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"He has the flexibility to play in a few positions across the midfield."

## Bugner back in Blighty for dinner speech



**Joe Bugner and Earnie Shavers, left, square-up during their visit to Wolverhampton Boxing Club**

IT was a case of no place like home for heavyweight great Joe Bugner when he dropped in to Wolverhampton Boxing Club with fellow former fighter Earnie Shavers.

It was a whistle-stop at the gym, before the pair moved on to the city's Novotel Hotel for an after-dinner speech slot on a show promoted by Gary Bate.

Hungarian-born Bugner's family relocated to Britain when he was

a boy and he went on to become a three-time European heavyweight champion, plus a two-time British and Commonwealth titleholder.

He said: "It's great to be back in England among proper boxing fans, I consider this place my home even though I am enjoying the sunshine in Australia. It's like catching up with old friends!"

A world crown eluded Bugner until he picked up the WBF belt at 48 but

he shared a ring with legends like Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, before the 64-year-old retired for pastures new.

Shavers also fought 'The Greatest' in a points loss but had him in all sorts of trouble when they also boxed for his WBA and WBC belts in 1977, in what was termed 'Ali's Desperate Hour'.

The champion escaped with the decision on points. .

## Big gap in league TV perks

WOLVES might be record-breaking League One champions – but they are paupers when it comes to this season's TV revenue.

The release of payments to Premier League clubs shows a huge contrast between the top flight and League One.

While Albion earned £8.648m from their nine live screenings this season and Villa £13.05m from their 16 appearances, Wolves earned just £135,000 for their five slots before the cameras.

Premier League clubs are paid up to £1m per live match screened, League One clubs receive just £30,000 as the home team and £10,000 as the visiting side. Albion's TV income and prize money amounted to £65.79m

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# SPORT

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Foot on the gas time for Cradley

CRADLEY have been warned to guard against complacency by boss Will Pottinger ahead of a big spell of meetings.

Heathens face three matches on the next two Tuesday nights at Wolverhampton – starting with the visit of Kent in National League action on May 27.

Then they will be staging a double-header on Tuesday, June 3 – but the order of meetings is currently to be confirmed.

They will be up against Scunthorpe in a league match and will also race the second leg of their Knockout Cup tie with Mildenhall on the same night.

Admission prices have been set at £14 adults, £10 concessions and £2 children for each of the heats of racing.

Heathens went to Mildenhall and pulled off a stunning 10-point win on Sunday with big hitters Steve Worrall and Paul Starke in brilliant form.

Boss Pottinger said: "We were chuffed with the performance, everyone put in a shift and did really, really well."

"We have got to stay focused and give a professional performance in the second leg though because it's not over yet. It was a very promising performance but we can't afford to take our foot off the gas."

**Year only for Albion strip**

ALBION'S controversial break with tradition for next season's kit design will be for one year only.

The club, which has faced an angry backlash from supporters riled by reports of a "pinstripe" design for the 2014-15 campaign, have already ordered their colours for the 2015-16 campaign.

And the club will then be reverting to a much more traditional blue and white stripe with new kit suppliers Adidas.

Discontent with the rumoured design for next season prompted a Facebook campaign against the idea.

Speculation on the social networks have portrayed the new kit as abandoning the traditional thick blue and white stripe that has been Albion's trademark.

The club concede the kit is a departure but insist there has been no accurate depiction of its true design.

## Team GB are marked men warns Kristian

### Gymnastics

KRISTIAN THOMAS has admitted Great Britain are marked men as they look to retain their European Championship title.

The Wolverhampton gymnast is targeting gold in Sofia when they start their defence on Thursday.

The team became the first GB men's side to claim a major title two years ago before winning team bronze at London 2012.

Thomas' stunning high bar routine in Montpellier clinched gold and he knows they are expected to challenge again.

"It's a completely different time. Two years ago we were going in looking for a

medal but now we want to retain the gold," he said.

"We've won medals at internationals for the last few years and it's a different approach this time with a lot more pressure."

"The biggest rival is Russia, they have a very strong team and if we can keep them off our backs then hopefully we can do the job."

"France, Germany and the Ukraine are there, it's fairly open. I'd say it's between us and Russia for gold but the bronze medal is

up for grabs." Thomas will compete in the floor, vault and high bar with senior qualification starting on Thursday and the team final on Saturday.

A strong performance will virtually guarantee him a spot in the England squad for the summer's Commonwealth Games.

And Thomas also wants GB to lay down a marker ahead of next year's World Championships.

"We are getting there. We have stayed together and expect to be winning World Championship medals as a team in Glasgow next year," said Thomas, who will also

compete in the individual finals on Sunday should he qualify.

"Japan, America, China, Russia and Great Britain are all gunning for a shot at the medals."

"There's going to be more pressure put on us for Rio but we're mentally tough enough to deal with that." The men arrived in Bulgaria after a historic competition for the Lilleshall-based women's senior and junior teams. They both won team silver while Ellie Downie won British gymnastics' first ever women's all-around medal in a European Championship.

## BAD FORM IS CAST OFF IN DERBY WIN

Halesowen First XI 194 Stourbridge First XI 195  
(Stourbridge Firsts win)

**STOURBRIDGE First XI leaped up from fifth to second position in division two of the Birmingham and District Premier league by beating local rivals Halesowen.**

Needing to reverse an inconsistent form so far this season Stourbridge notched up an important victory.

They were up against a new look Halesowen side with Faishal Shahid at the helm replacing Wes Griffiths.

On a hot day Shahid called correctly at the toss of the coin and batted hoping for a total past the 200 mark. Pace man Matt Bradley made the early breakthrough for Stour with the score on 11 taking the wicket of Mohammad Shauib judged LBW for 1.

### Delighting

Former Stourbridge player, No.3 Wes Griffiths and the opener Kester Moseley took the score to 53 when Griffiths was caught from the bowling of James Wood for 18, delighting Stour's players.

The biggest partnership of the innings was built between Moseley and the skipper Shahid they progressed the score to 103.

Next to go was the skipper falling LBW to Auddy Alexander for 22 in the 34th over total on 104.

With a run rate just over three an over Stour's effort were paying off despite the two chances that went

### Cricket

begging. Sixteen year old Dion Patel, No.5, joined the opener Moseley with a mission to accelerate the run rate.

Stourbridge's opening partnership of 21 between Alex Bingham and Steve Game set the tone for their reply. Bingham who had batted two consecutive square cuts off Dan Jones was first to depart with his score on 11 taking the wicket of Mohammad Shahid.

He was caught in the slips on a rebound from the keeper Jones getting the better of Bingham. Game and Richard Bradley batted for nine overs putting on 48. Drunks taken on 17 overs Stour were well placed at 68-1 needing 127 for victory.

The cautious Bradley was a victim of LBW to the spinner Zain Shahid for 27. In the next over Game, who looked solid in defence, went in the same way off the bowling of Richard Brooker for 25.

The number four Auddy Alexander and batting at 59 Banks both fresh at the crease were confronted with producing 127 off 19 overs for victory. Both kept the score moving with classy boundaries.

## Bush Athletic double up to retain dual titles



Bush Athletic Football Club have enjoyed another good season holding onto both the league and cup. The team is both Dudley and Cradley Heath Football Premier Division Champions and Thornleigh Freight Trophy winners. Bush achieved the double after defeating Pensnett United 4-2 in last Sunday's Thornleigh Freight Trophy. They won the league sweeping aside allcomers while remaining unbeaten. They ended by winning 13 and drawing 1 while scoring 84 goals and conceding only 17.

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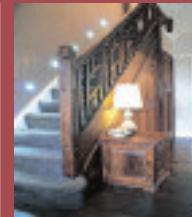
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## Back home

Albion make first signing in rebuild

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## Bugner back

Boxing legends in city for dinner show

Page 39



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Hurry up sale Villa warned

VILLA are still in limbo as Ken McNaught insisted the club will suffer if the uncertainty continues through the summer.

The claret and blue favourite reckons fans will become restless should the club not come up with a clear plan.

Boss Paul Lambert and chief executive Paul Faulkner are back in the UK after meeting with owner Randy Lerner in New York last week.

They are expected to reveal Villa's short-term plan soon after Lerner confirmed he will sell the club.

Lambert's spot is unclear, although he is expected to stay as manager for now.

"It's a worrying time for Villa fans at the moment," said McNaught, the 1982 European Cup winner, who also played for Albion in the mid-80s. "It has been tough for the last few seasons but the fans, to their credit, have continued to turn up every week to support the team. "They have been brilliant with the support they have shown but clubs can't expect that kind of loyalty forever, especially with everything which is going on."

## Gera's goodbye to the Albion

HAWTHORNS hero Zoltan Gera has said a fond farewell to Albion insisting "I've enjoyed every minute".

The fans' favourite is one of 10 players to depart in a dramatic end-of-season clearout, bringing to an end a successful Baggies career.

"I enjoyed every minute I spent here," said the 35-year-old.

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